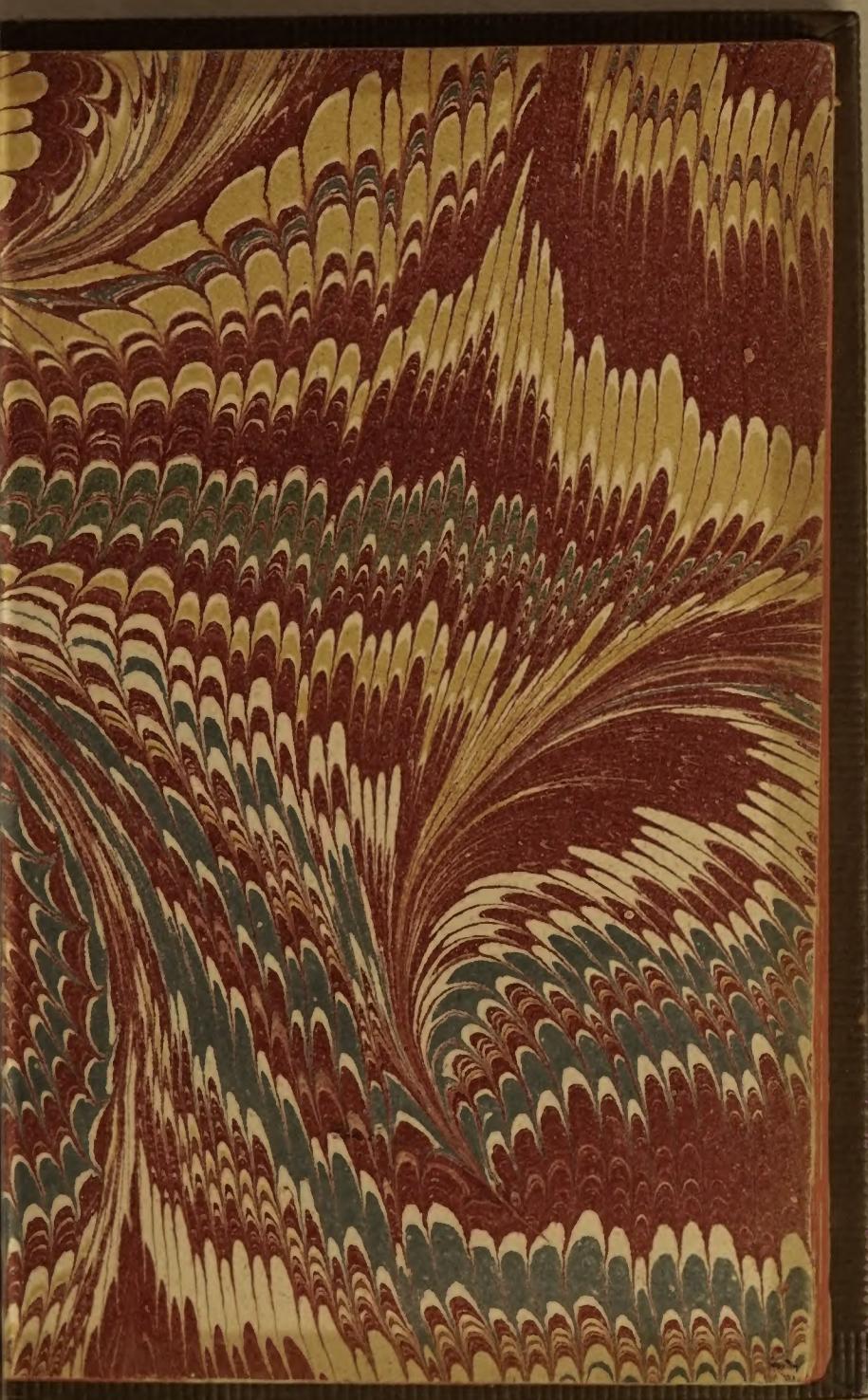


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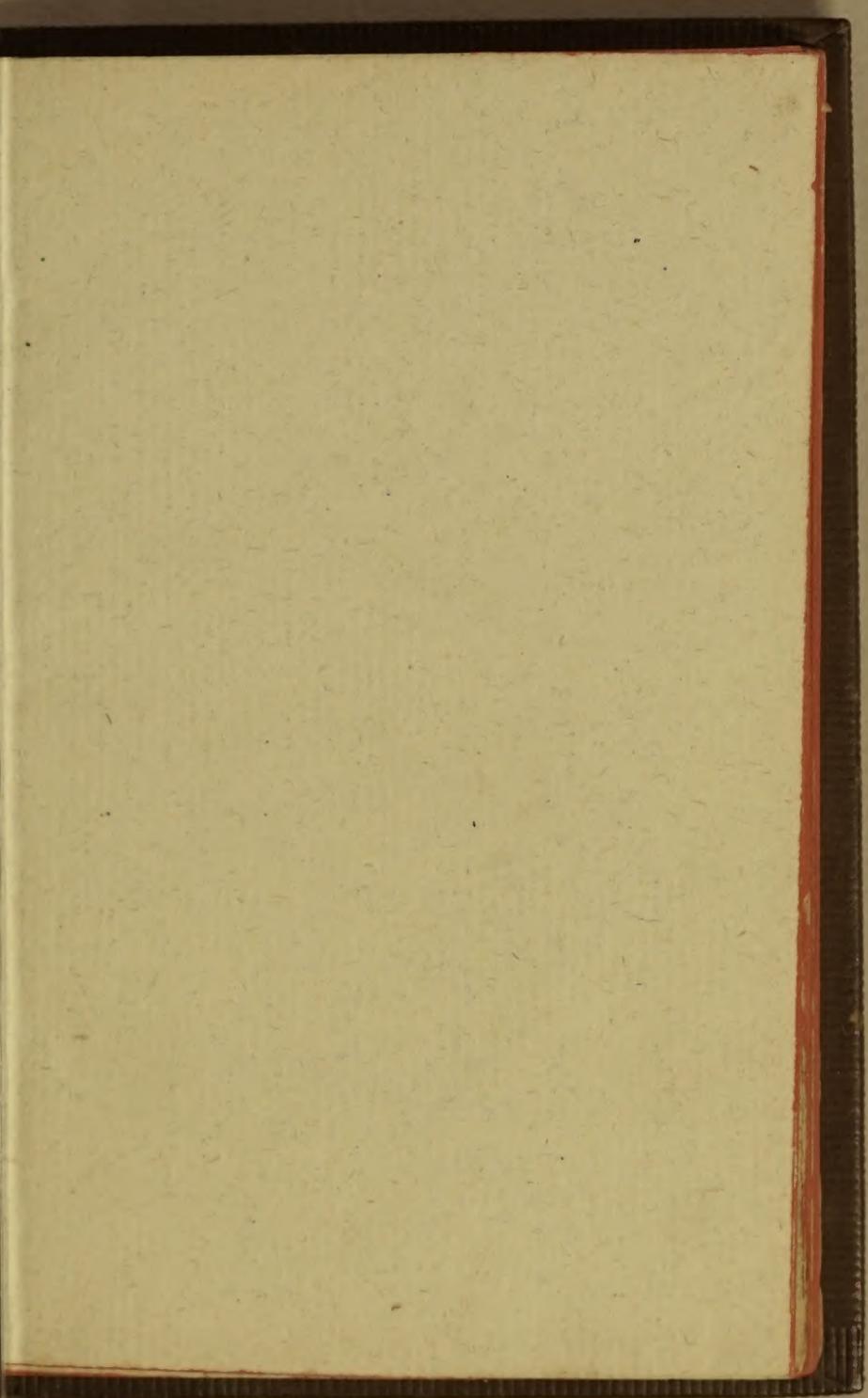


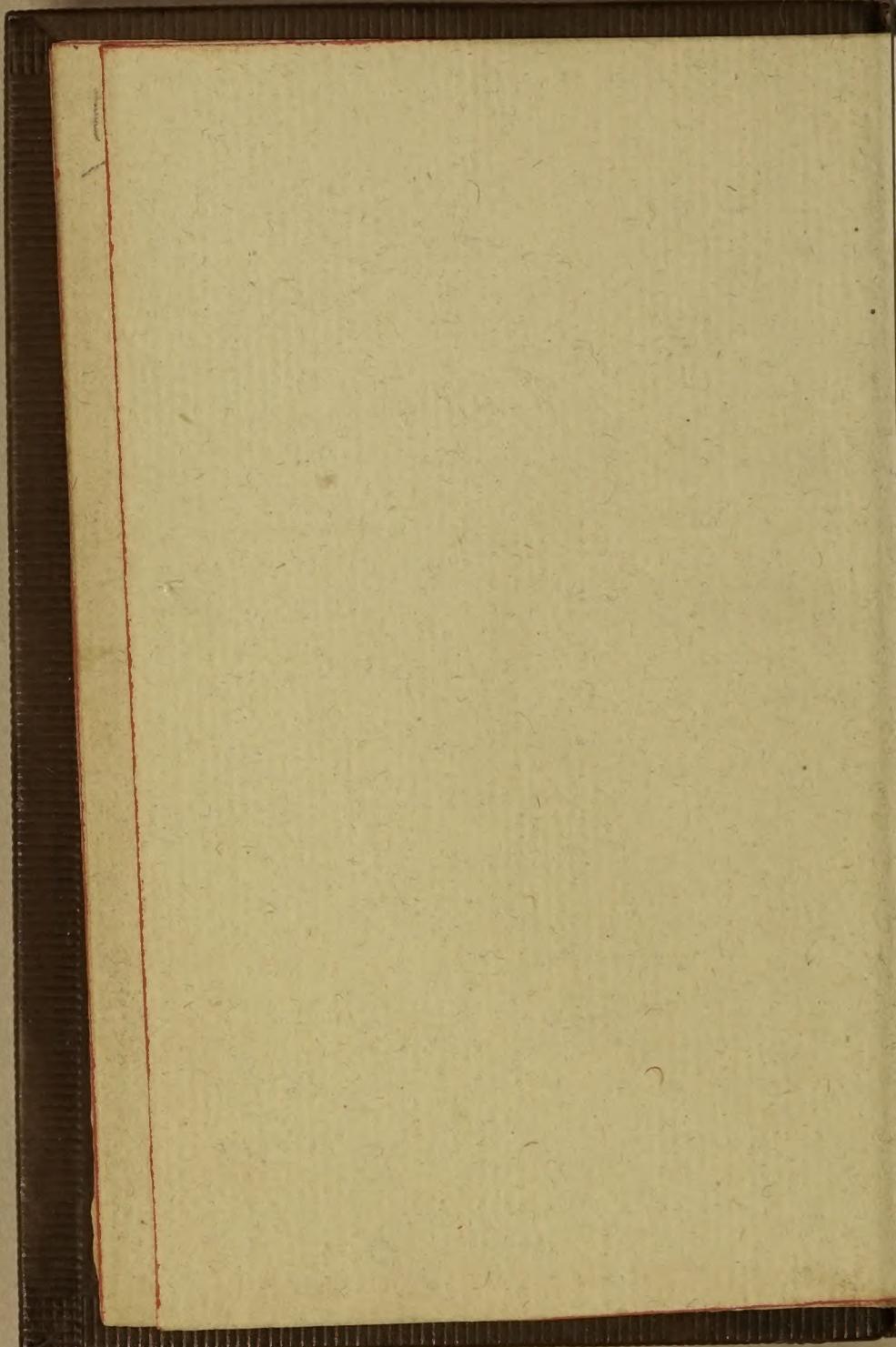
John Carter Brown.

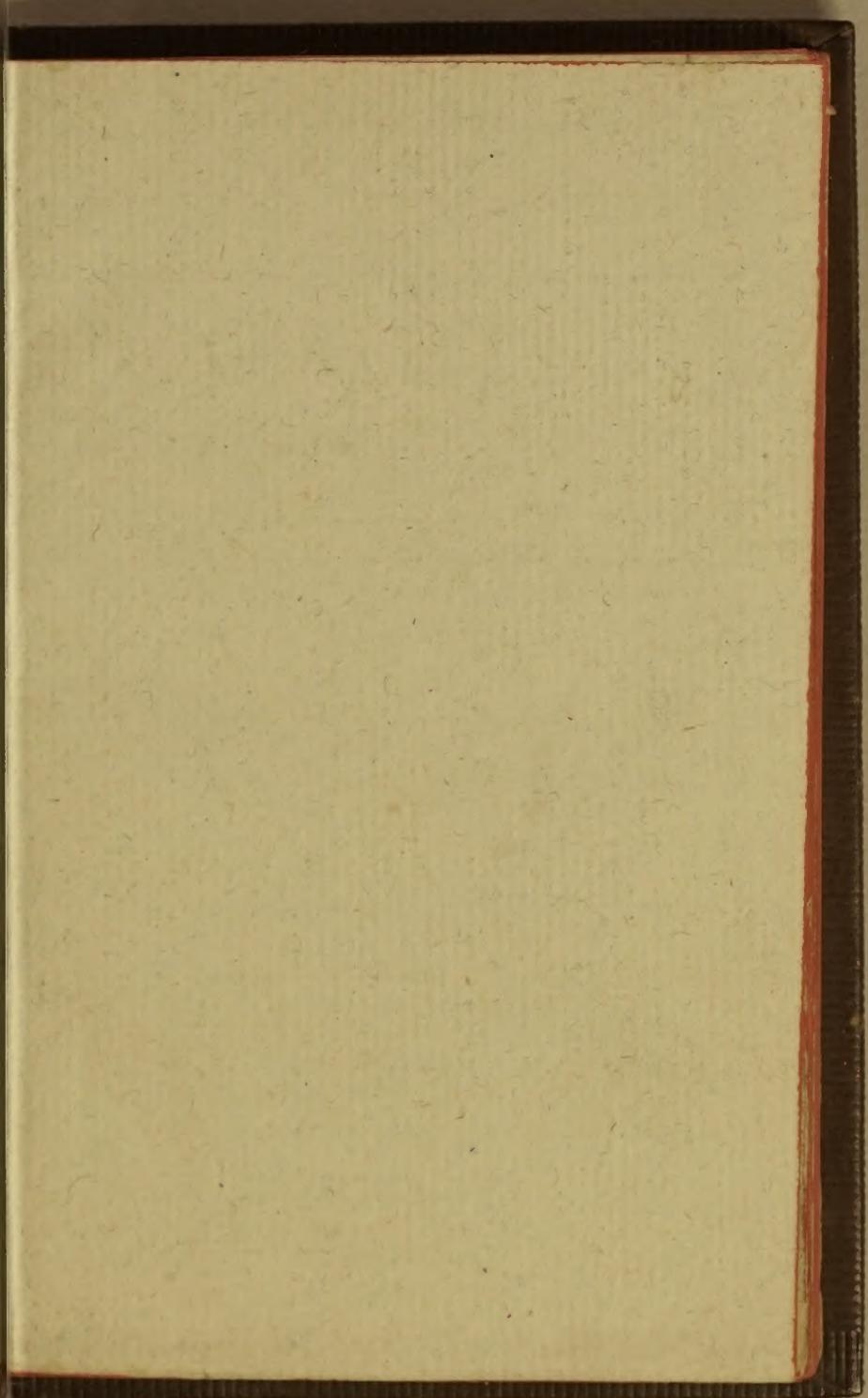


III

Job







^C
Ent. Leronay. 1811.

also written in 1811.

J.C.B. has the two Leronays
bound separately - 168 & 2

KOMΗΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ.

OR A
Discourse Concerning
COMETS;

Wherein the Nature of *BLAZING STARS*
is Enquired into:

With an Historical Account of all the COMETS
which have appeared from the Beginning of the
World unto this present Year, M.DC.LXXXIII.

Expressing

The Place in the Heavens, where they were seen,
Their Motion, Forms, Duration ; and the Re-
markable Events which have followed
in the World, so far as they have been
by Learned Men Observed.

As also two SERMONS
Occasioned by the late *Blazing Stars.*

By INCREASE MATHER, Teacher of a Church
at Boston in New-England.

Psal. 111. 2. The works of the Lord are great, sought
out of all them that have pleasure therein.

Amos 9. 6. He buildeth his stories in the Heaven.

BOSTON IN NEW-ENGLAND.

Printed by S. G. for S. S. And sold by J. Browning
At the corner of the Prison Lane next the Town-
House 1683.

JOHN CARTER BROWN.

BCJB



To the Reader.

The Subject of this following Discourse, now offering it self to thy Perusal is one of the many ^{suscep}tions which it hath pleased the Almighty Lord of Heaven and of Earth, to treat of and insist upon, in Drawing up and Publishing to the World the great and glorious volume of his Works : in the Margin whereof they have been frequently placed as Red Letters, Asterisks, or pointing Hands, to awaken unto a more heedful attention and serious consideration, the dead heart-sleeping and secure World of Mankind. To promote this, the best and most blessed end and use, of such tremendous and threatening Aspects of the highest and most Dreadful Majesty, is the pious design of the Reverend and Learned Author, in compiling & publishing this Treatise, & its a thousand pities it should not be attended to and attained by a People so circumstanced as we, English transplanted into, or procreated in these American Deserts, be. The labour and pains it hath cost the Author to peruse and consult so many Writers, ancient & modern, Astronomers, Chronologers, & Historians;

To the Reader.

storians, is such as will render it very disingenious, not to give it a grateful and friendly reception and entertainment. He hath herein presented thee with, first, the Theory; secondly, the History of Comets, commonly called Blazing Stars.

As to the Theory, there is (to my understanding) as much declared, as it bath pleased the Father of Lights and Fountain of all knowledge & wisdome (hitherto) to discover to poor ignorant Mortals; viz. the result of the judicious thoughts of the ablest and best accomplished Artists, who upon very many accurate, unquestionably true and exact Observations, made by the help of choicest Instruments improved by minds intensely set to search into, and find out the Mystery and Meaning of those abstruse and admirable works of him who is most High; have declared what they conceive most rationally probable. The wisest of Men know that they understand but little part of Gods wayes and works; and are not ashamed to confess that in things so much above humane Capacity, they are rather Quærists then Adepts, content to be ignorant of what he is pleased as yet not to discover; our Authors modest expressing himself, sheweth he wrote under the influence of so humbling a consideration.

To the Reader.

Of the second, or Historical part of the Discourse, the scope is, to evidence and evince that Comets are ordinarily the forerunners of disastrous Calamities, Mischiefs, & Miseries, hastening to follow and fall down on the heads of senseless & secure Sinners. For the clearing up and making out of which, by way of induction, a great multitude of particular Instances and Examples are out of sundry Authors of approved ability and faithfulness alledged; who have left upon Record their accurate observations of time, place, and other circumstances of several Comets in divers ages, with the dreadful Revolutions, dismal Commotions and Confusions which followed them at the heels. If it be said, that some of those Periwigged Heralds have appeared on the æthereal stage upon a more benign account: it may be rationally replied, that the number of such is very small: and that their blasting influences, might be direfully operative in remoter and less known parts of the Earth. When the hand of Heaven is seen writing MENE MENE TEKEL, &c. it may become the highest of Mortals to tremble. Reader, if thou art one any whit considerably raised above the level of the lowest sort of men, thou wilt not think it lost labour to acquaint thy self

To the Reader.

with what is here presented : an awakening and
humbling is the best use thou canst make of it ; to
see it improved unto the furthering thy souls best
good will be the most acceptable recompence of the
Pious Authors unwearied pains : That he may
see the desired travel of his soul, shall be the un-
feigned wish, of him who is,

Thine in the Lord,

Decemb. 20. 1682.

JOHN SHERMAN.

To

To the Reader.

Some Worthy Persons having desired me to Write the History of Comets; I resolved (with Divine Permission and Assistance) to spend the spare hours of a few Weeks in an endeavour that way. And accordingly I have perused what Books I could meet with, which might be helpful to me in this undertaking. There is a late Author (a) who on occasion of the Comets seen Annis 1664, 65 hath published a large Volume, which he calls *Theatrum Cometum*, wherein he giveth an account of all the Comets which have been observed since Noub's flood being in number 415, together with the Events, whether Prosperous or Adverse. Also *Erasmus Bartholinus* hath written upon those Comets, which Books, I have very much wished for a sight of, as supposing I should meet with Passages therein, that would be serviceable to me in my present design: But I could not at this distance from Europe, suddenly obtain them.

As for what concerns the Time, and other circum-

(a) Stanislai, de Lubienietz

See the *Philosophie. Transactions* for An. 1668. vol. 3. p 691., 1071,

To the Reader.

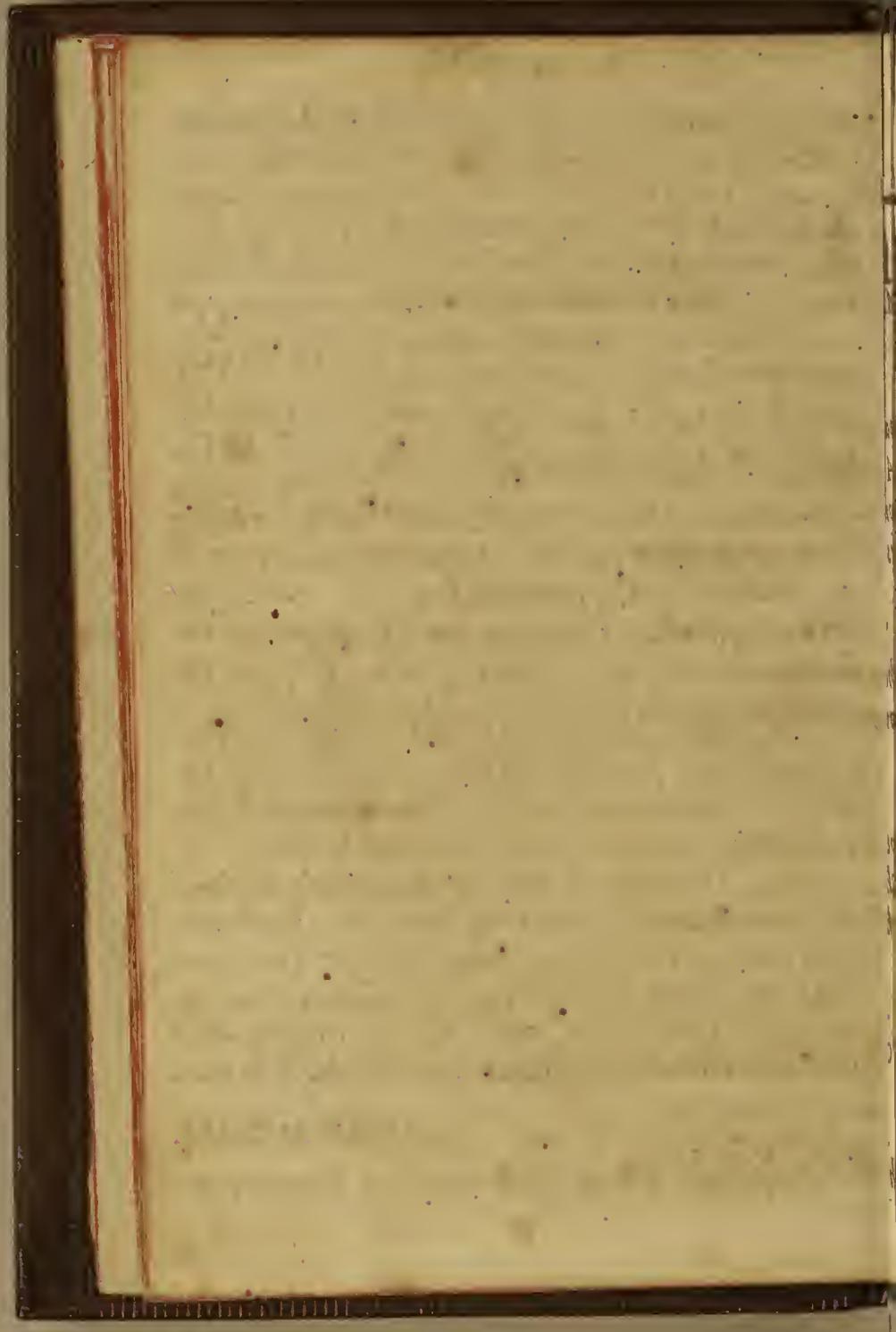
cumstances relating to these *Phænomena*; I have been chiefly beholding to the Collections of *Alstedius*, *Longemontanus*, *Kepler*, *Hevelius* and *Ricciolus*. Though *Rockenbachius* is many times cited, I could not obtain the perusal of his Book (it not being in this *American Wilderness*) only I take his Observations upon trust from *Hevelius*, who hath faithfully expressed what the other hath written. Concerning remarkable *Events*: Besides the Authors mentioned, I have consulted *Funcius*, *Calvisius*, *Cluverius*, and several other Historians; and if the Reader please to take the pains to search the Authors quoted in the Margin, or where none is there cited, if he look into *Calvisius* and *Funcius* their Chronologies he will find that things have been truly related. As for Events which have hapned in these late times, it is needless to quote any Author, for that which our own eyes have seen, or ears heard. I know (as the great *Orator* could say) I am not born for my self, but for others. I may hope that my labour herein, will not be altogether unacceptable to the *English Reader*; since there never was yet (so far as I understand) an attempt of this kind, by an *English hand*. My chief design, is to inform and edifie the ordinary sort of Readers. Yet considering that God hath made me a debtor to the wise as well as to the weak, I have added some things of the *nature, place, motion* of *Comets*, which only such as have some skill in *Astronomy* can understand; and unto such, hints of that kind will be

To the Reader.

be both pleasant and profitable; such kind of knowledge being that which Tradition saith the Holy Patriarchs were some of them delighted in. Upon the mention of Historical passages, A.M. 2020. Abram docuit Mathematicam & Astronomiam Alst. Encyclop. L.33.Ca.8 p. 2119 which imply a notable accomplishment of some Prophetical Scripture, I have (it being very proper for one under my circumstances so to do) taken special notice thereof, supposing that it may be instructive to some Readers, and not ungrateful unto others. These late years having been attended with several Comets, and there being some who would have the World believe, there is no cause of dread when such *Ensigns* amidst the Heavenly Host, are held up in the sight of all the Earth; I hope the publishing a discourse on the present Subject, will not be judged unseasonable. When the Benjamites saw the Flame, with a Pillar of smoke (in a proper and literal sense) though before they knew not that evil was near unto them, yet then they could not but be sensible of it. Judge. 20. 34,40. If any be awakened with the sight of these Pillars of Smoke which we have seen flaming in Heaven, to prepare for whatever changes may befall them; And if this Treatise shall promote the attainment of that end, my design in writing of it will not be wholly frustrated, nor my labour in vain.

INCREASE MATHER.

Boston N.E. Dec. 31.
1682.



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A Diff

A

Discourse Concerning COMETS.

CHAP. I.

*That Comets are not in the Air, but in the
Starry Heaven. Their Origin and
true matter enquired into.*

THE Sentiments of learned Men, concerning the place where and the matter out of which Comets are made; have been very various. The Peripatetic School has phansied them to be Meteors, generated out of the Bowels of the Earth, exhaled and extolled by the Sun to the supreme Region of the Air, and there set on Fire. It would be needless and endless to tell how many have after Aristotle embraced this notion, but it may not be unprofitable in a few words to evince the contrary, i.e. That Comets are not placed in the first heaven or Air, but farre above it,

A Discourse

it, in the second or Starry Heaven, and that therefore they are rather Stars than Meteors.

1. That most learned Mathematician *Hevelius* his argument from the motion of Comets is irrefragable (a) whatever body (saith he) is moved in the great Circle, dividing the Sphære, and keeping fixed Poles, is certainly Ethe-
rial and not Aereal. But this is true of every Comet; its diurnal or common motion, is absolved as other Cælestial bodies are, which cannot be said of any sort of Meteors; yea, the motion thereof is exact and regular, though at first its more swift, and afterwards more slow, yet in that inequality, there is an exact proportion and regularity obser-
ved, whereas it is otherwise with Meteors that are tossed to and fro, and move not through the great Circle. The motion of Comets doth very much imitate not that of the fixid Stars, but of the Plan-
nets, whence they are by some called *Pseudo-Planitæ*, and by others *Spuri-
ous-Planets*. And the Holy Scripture seems to give that name of *Planets* to them, or as our Translation hath it wan-
dering Stars, *Jude, 13.* Ασέρες πλανύται

a In *Cometographia Lib.*
2. Pag. 132.

2. The truth of what we assert, is manifest

manifest to those that understand any thing in the Doctrine Parallaxes. It is an indubitable Maxim, that the less the Parallax the remoter the Phænomenon. But Comets have a less parallax than the Moon, which shews that they are *Supra-Lunary Bodies*, sometimes they admit of no sensible Parallax at all, as might by many instances be confirmed, Let us for Arguments sake, imagine the suprem Region of the Air to extend as far as 20 Semidiameters of the Earth, b. e. 17000 German Miles (which it is most certain it doth not, nor the half of one thousand, as anon will be made to appear) if the Comet (b) is no higher then that, there will be a considerable Parallax. Inasmuch then, as to many Comets there hath been no Parallax, that demonstrates their being elevated above 17000 Mill. Germ. and consequently as far as the Ætherial Heaven. Therefore,

3. Learned Men of these later times, wherein light in things natural as well as divine hath been admirably discovered, have by the help of Mathematical Instruments made ocular demonstrations, that Comets are far above this Aery Heaven, wherein Animals live and ove.

b Hevel Lib. 3.
Tag. 160.

4

A Discourse

c Lib. 5. P. 317

Kepler observed the Blazing Star which was seen A.D. 1618. to be at its first appearance three times as high as the Moon. Hevelius (c) then whom no man was more industrious and accurate in observing the Comet, A.D. 1652. saith that January the first it was as high as the sphære of Mercury, January the sixth as high as Venus, Jan. 8^o as high as Mars, January 9. as high as the Orb of Jupiter. It was distant from the Earth 15494. S.T. and not only the more subtile Doctrine of Parallaxes demonstrates that Blazing Stars are beyond the airy Region, but other considerations also evince it, e. g. that of its continuing so many hours above the Horizon, and being observed by persons in Countryes remote one from another at the same hour, to be in the same constellation or place in the Heavens. Let us (saith Hevelius) suppose the supream Region of the Air to be 20 German miles (or 80 Italick miles) off, and yet that is no doubt higher then the Air is extended; for the tops of some Mountains are higher then the Clouds, so as that the Air doth not go beyond them: If men ascend the top of Mount Olympus in Asia, they die for want of air, being out of their Elements,

Kepler de Co-
mets P. 33.

Concerning Comets.

ments, just as Fishes die when listed above the water; But supposing it to be 80 miles distant from the Earth, and the Comet to be there, it would not have been above the Horizon, more then two hours; when as it was so 17 hours. And at the very hour when (a) *Hevelius* did at Dantzick observe it to be in the Star near the foot of *Perfius*, *Bullialdus* in *Paris* saw it in the very same place, wheras, if it had been no higher then the suprem Region of the air, it would have appeared to *Bullialdus* (being then in *Paris*) in *Hercules* and not in *Perfius*, as it did to those in Dantzick Nor would a Blazing Star be observed by all the World at once (where the Stars under which it moves, are seen) if it were not above the air. The opinion of *Panætius*, who thought that a Comet was a meer *Emphasis* or *Parelion*, proceeding from the reflection of some other Star, is solidly refuted, from this consideration, that a Parelion is not seen in all Countries at once; The same argument provereth that Comets have their existence above the air.

4. We may argue from the magnitude of Comets, that they are as high as the starry Heaven. *Snellius* (e) en-

d *Idem in Lib.*
3. P. 151, 155.

B. 2. deavours

e *In Libro de
Cometa Anno.
1618.*

8

A Discourse

deavours by Mathematical demonstra-
tion to evince that if the whole airy Hea-
ven should be contracted into one Globe
it would not be so big as the head of
that *Comet*, which appeared, A. D.
1577. how then is it possible for the
air to contain so vast a body? *Majus*
non potest contineri a minori. And
Gotfridus Wenaelinus observed that the
magnitude of the *Comet* which appear-
ed A.D. 1652. did equal or exceed the
Moon. And *Hevelius* (f) writing of
the same *Comet*, saith, that it was great-
er than the Moon, and that he was aston-
ished, when with exact Mathematical
Instruments he examined it; and though
other Learned Men were with him at
the same time, and helpful in his Obser-
vations, he protesteth he could not have
believed what they said, if his own eyes
had not beheld it. Nay, he saith, that
that *Comet* did almost equal the Sun a
little before its disappearing, (g) yet
the Sun is (according to his judgment)
3462 times as big as the Earth. Is it
likely that a body of so stupendious a
magnitude should be contained in this
low & little Heaven, wherein Mortal
Creatures have their Breath and Be-
ing?

g. *Ibid. P. 338.*

5. Some Comets (as Galtruchius de
Sphæra

Sphæra Mundi, Cap. 6. P. 125. confesseth) have been absconded, by the interposition of a Planet between the Earth and them, which could not be if they did not move in an higher Sphere than the Planet whereby they were Eclipsed : But notwithstanding these Arguments are so convincing and demonstrative, its marvellous to see how some Popish Authors (Jesuites especially) train their wits to defend their Pagan Master Aristotle his Principles. Bullius speaks of a Florentine Physician, that all the Friends he had could never perswade him once to view the Heavens through a Telescope, and he gave that eason for his refusal, because he was afraid that then his Eyes would make him stagger concerning the truth of Aristotles Principles, which he was resolved he would not call into question. It were well, if these Men had as great veneration for the Scripture as they have, for Aristotles (if indeed they be his) absurd Books *de cœlo et de his satis.*

It is an easier matter to prove that comets are in the Æther, then to declare how they came there. Some ancient Philosophers judged them to be evous with the Planets, and fixed

*h Consulantur Stars, and that only their appearance Aristot. meteor and not their existence is new: This Lib. 1. Chap. 6. Opinion (h) was embraced by Pythagoras, Diogenes, Seneca, and by the old Plutarch de Chaldeans. Nor is it contradicted by placitis Philo- Columbus, Licius, Cartisius, with some sophorum, L. 3. other late Writers. And it must be Chap. 5. acknowledged, that notwithstanding Ricciolus de their disappearance at certain times, for Cometis L. 8. many years together, they may be coætaneous, and altogether of the same na- P. 36, 40. ture with the true Planets. A rectili- neal motion may soon cause a Star to vanish out of our sight which yet hath a real existence still. Or some density or obscurity in the Atmosphære though our Air should be never so clear, may cause it to be unobservable by us. Ancient Writers speak of some fixed Stars which are not seen by us. And divers of them do not now appear to be of the same magnitude, as in former ages. And sundry new Stars have of late ap- peared which the former Generation never saw. It seems not consonant to reason to imagine, either that the old Stars are lost, or that new ones are o- late created, those glorious celestia Bodies being of perpetual duration. The Stars are by the Hebrews called *Chochabim*, probably by Antiphrasis from*

from *chabah extinxit*, because they are Lights which never go out; And for ought that any man is able to prove to the contrary, they shall remain as everlasting Monuments of the power & wisdome of God, throughout the dayes of Eternity. Nevertheless, it is admirable (*i*) to consider, that there is a Star of later times observed *in collo Cœti* which disappears every year for several Moneths, and then appears again, in the very same place where it was the last year; Being at first very small and obscure, but afterwards a bright Star of the second magnitude. Also, a new Star appeared in the Swans breast, A.D. 1601 and continued shining there until the year 1660. and *k* *Cometogr.*
 then it disappeared, (*k*) and when, or *this P. 292.*
 whether ever it will be seen again, no man can say: also a new Star was lately (*viz. Anno. 1672.*) discerned in the Swans head. But though the Argument from disappearance be invalid, it is from other reasons manifest, that they are not such Planets as those created at the beginning of the World are. *Co-*
mets are often seen out of the Zodiack,
which the true Planets are not. They
dispatch more way by far then the Pla-
*nets do. That (*l*) Comet, A.D. 1618* ¹ *Ricciolus ubi*
supra P. 41.

See the Philosophical transactions for
year 1677. P.
§ 54.

in the space of three Moneths dispatch-ed 180 Degrees. No Planet goeth over so great an arch of the circle in so short a time. Some Comets have mo ved 20, 30, nay 40 Degrees in one na-tural day. Whenas the lesser Planets do not absolve two degrees in that time.

Comets then are *Temporary*, whenas the true Planets are *perpetual*. As for the matter out of which they are gene-rated, *Snellius*, *Puteanus*, *Fromondus*, and others conceive them to be com-pacted out of evaporationes, which do proceed from the Sun. Our modern *Mathematicians*, have observed, that there are *Maculae Solares* or spots a-bout the Sun, which sometimes may be discerned for many dayes together: & sometimes for several Moneths, nothing of that nature can be perceived. *He-velius* (m) concludeth that the *Effe-
via* proceeding from the Sun are such, as will afford matter enough for 68 Comets in one year, in case those æthe-real vapours should congregate into a body. The wisest of men must inge-niously confess their own ignorance in these things, and that what they say is but problematical and conjectural. I shall not therefore be positive in any de-termination, which concerns the mat-ter

m Lib. 7. Page
40, 405.

er that Comets are formed out of. Only I am easily induced to believe, that they are generated out of the same matter which Stars were in the beginning of the World, made of, *viz. Light, or the Element of Fire*, being first condensed into lesser particles, and after that conglomerated into a vast body. In the Scripture, the Stars are called *Luminaries*, Ge. 1.1415 [Meorō:h] q̄ uasi [min Or] ex luce vel igne qui abs Hebreus [Ur] icitur, a lucendo. We see that the Sun doth beat down fire continually, insomuch as the beams thereof, if condensed with a Glass, will burn. *Anaxagoras* n Aristot. me-
n) and *Democritus* of old thought that teor L.1.C.6.
Comets were made of many little Stars Plutarch de
growing into one. Which *Cusatius*, placit. Philoso-
phorusL,3.C2
Tankerus, and other neotericks consells
to be a very probable opinion. Some
Comets have appeared broken into ma-
ny Stars. In that famous Comet which
was seen A.D. 1618. one might with
Telescope discern many small clots
ke Stars or Coals of Fire. At first it
seemed to be one solid lump, but on
December 8. it was divided into three
nequal parts, Dec 17. it was broken in Wendelinus
to many little Stars, Decemb. 24. it cometica P.21.
as dissolved into more and lesser Stars
o) In the Blazing Star that appeared

A.D.

A.D. 1652. not on'y Hevelius and Wendelin, but the Astronomers in *Mantua* viewing of it with a Telescope, perceived in the head of that Comet, a great many of smal Stars, & one bigger & longer than the rest, like coale of fire in an Hearth or Oven, when the wood is consumed. Mr. Robert Hook (an ingenious Mathematician now in *London*) observed a Star in the midst of the head of that Comet which was seen in April, A.D. 1677. The like is to be said concerning several other Comets, as may be seen in the ninth Chapter of this Dissertation. And there are many who to confirm this Notion that a Comet is a company of small Stars growing into one body, affirm that they usually appear about the *Galaxia* or *Milky Way*, wherewith the skye glitters. Now the *Telescope* discovers that part of the skye to be exceeding full of little Stars. Blazing Stars do not alwayes (though often) appear there. Nevertheless, I believe that when we know more of the true and natural reason of the *Vix Lætra*, we shall understand more of the nature of Comets.

CHAP. II.

THe several sorts of Comets consider'd. The natural reason of the Blaze

aze, the time of their appearance can certainly be predicted. Notwithstanding their proceeding from natural causes, they may be portentous signs of evil Events.

Having briefly Discoursed of the cause where, and the matter out of which Comets have their existence; we now proceed to consider the usual distributions of those admirable and amazing works of the glorious Creator, whose works are great, and sought out by those that have pleasure therein. As for the parts of which a Comet doth consist there is the Star & the Blaze proceeding therefrom, whence we call them Blazing Stars. Or, the Body of the Star, and the stream that follows or goeth before it, which the Greeks call *Comæ*, whence such Phœnomena have the names of Comets given to them. In respect of the Blaze, Comets have been distinguished into several sorts. The Assyrians, Arabians, and others in old times, were wont from the colour of the blaze to denominate the Comet e.g. (p) Mizaldus de Cometis.

when it was of a dark and leadish kind of colour, they called it a *Saturnine*; if of a bright Silver shining colour, a *Povial*; if red and fiery, a *Martial*; if of a Golden aspect a *Solar*; if a bright yellow,

q *Nat. Histor.*
L.2.C.25
r Longoman
tanus de novis
cæli phœnom.
C. 1. Ricciolus
de Cometis C.2
Hevelius Co-
metogr. L.8.
P.439.

yellow a Venereal; if cærulean and various, a Mercurial Comet. But the Latines and Greeks have distinguishe Comets from the form of the Blaze which they appear with. Pliny (q) mentions about ten several sorts of Blazing Stars. But all may be reduced to these two general heads: viz. (r) That a Comet is either 1, Crinite, h.e when the Beams or Blaze is all round the body of the Star; under which cometh that sort of Comet which is called *Disceus*, appearing in form like a Dish. *Pithites*, when the Comet is like a Tub or Hogshead, *Hippeus*, when it resembles an Horses main. *Hircus*, when the Blaze is like to Goats hair. Or 2. *Barbate*, h.e. when the Blaze is on the one side of the Comet only. Under this comes that which is called *Acontias*, when the blaze is in the form of a Dart. *Longitis*, when it is in the form of a Lance or Spear. *Xiphias*, when in the form of a Sword. *Ceretiæ* when it bends like a crooked Horn. *Lampadias*, when it blazeth like a Lamp. As for the true cause of the Blaze, it seems evident that it doth proceed from the Sun beams, passing through the body of the Star. For the Coma or Blaze is not on that side of the Star which is

next

xt to the Sun, but which is opposite
ere from. Some antient Writers be-
n a little to take notice of this. But
ppianus was the first that did fully and
early discern it to be so, being con-
vinced of the truth of this notion, by
several Comets which himself lived
see, viz. Those in Anno. 1531, 32, 33,
39. Likewise Gemma, and Cornelius
ijus, Fracastorius, Tycho, and of la-
t times Gassendus, and many other fa-
ous Mathematicians, and diligent ob-
ervers of things of this nature
om the learned Reader may see quo-
d by (s) Hevelius. Moreover, (1) t Ubi supra C.
ngomontanus observeth, that if the
omet have a more lateral disposition
wards the Sun, then it will be Cauda-
, but if the opposition to the Sun be
ore direct, or the Comet elevated a-
ve the Sun, then it will be Crinita, or
e Blaze but short. The blaze is long
short according to the opposition to-
wards the Sun, and distance from the
rth. The blaze of some Comets
th extended it self above ninety De-
rees. There was one in Aristotle's
ne that was an 130 Degrees in Lon-
gitude. If the Comet be higher then
e Sun, the blaze will be short. If
e Comet be as low as the Sun, then
the

SL.8.P.432:

the nearer it is to the Sun, the long will the blaze appear to be. By things that have been thus far discoursed, we may conclude that the time any Comets appearance cannot certainly be prædicted before hand. So

*u De augmentis scientiarum
P. 242.*

Franciscus Junctinus in Annotationibus de Cometis Cornelius Gemma Cosmogr. L. I C. 18

*x Edlin in his prænuncius sydereus Pag. 36
37, 89.*

very learned men, (in special the great and noble (*u*) *Verulam*) have supposed that this knowledge is attainable. Indeed, if Comets were sempiternal bodies, by experience and observation their appearance might be exactly predicted. But since they are generated in the *Æther*, no man can any more tell when they shall be seen, than he can know when a *Parælion*, or *Draco volans* or the like will be generated in the *Æther*. Yet I will not deny, but that a probable conjecture, as to the year of a Comets appearance, may be made from the conjunction of the superiour Planets. It hath been (*w*) observed that the rare Conjunctions are commonly attended with the appearance of some new Star, or Comet: So indeed it was to ths *Blazing Stars* in 1504, 1506, 1525, 1577, 1583, 1664. notable conjunctions of the Planets did precede them. Upon this ground, (*x*) a famous Astrologer, publishing a Treatise of conjunction of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* An-

anno. 1663. conjectured that Comet would appear the next year: which hapned to be true; and if an *Adolger* (as the blind man hits the ark) chance to prædict right once, ore notice is taken of that, then of s mistaking an hundred times over. ery notable Conjunctions of the Pla-
nts hapned this present, and will so again the next year, (as shall be ore particularly mentioned) If any man should now positively affirm, that thin this twelve moneth another *Bla-
zing Star* will appear, it would be pre-
mptuous, although it is both possible
d probable that it may so come to
ss. But the observation doth not
wayes hold good; For there have
en both greater and lesser Conjun-
tions of the Planets, when no Comet
th appeared, and many Comets with-
t any such Conjunctions immediately
æceding. In few words, sometimes,
any *Blazing Stars* have been seen
thin the compass of a few years;
ere have been at least ten within these
ghty years last past. But in some a-
s, not one Comet hath appeared for
hundred years together. Since se-
ral may appear (in two, nay) in one
ar, and it may be not one in fifty nor

in an hundred years, the appearance of such *Phænomena*'s, cannot be infallibly foreseen by any humane understanding upon Earth.

There are who think, that inasmuch as Comets may be supposed to proceed from natural causes, there is no speaking voice of Heaven in them, beyond what is to be said of all other works of God. But certain it is, that many things which may happen according to the course of nature, are portentous signs of divine anger, and prognosticks of great evils hastening upon the world. A Learned and Judicious Author (^y) conceiveth that the prodigious darkness which hapned in the Sun at the time of our Saviour Christ's Passion was caused by a Comet interposing it self between the Sun and the Earth; yet that darkness was a sign of Gods anger and that darkness of misery should come upon the Jewish Nation, for their unparalleled wickedness in Crucifying the Son of God. Luther thinks, that the Joels Prophesie was fulfilled, who predicted that the Sun should be turned into (z) darkness before the terrible day of the Lord came. Thunder, Lightning, Hail, and Rain, are from natural causes yet are they sometimes signs of God's holy

^y Hevelius in
Cometogr. Lib.
8. P. 54^o.

^z Luther in
Joel 2. sic &
glossa ordinaria
Gasper sancti-
us Galii in lo-
cum.

holy displeasure, Exod. 9. 24, 34. 1 Sam.
1. & 12. 17. Earthquakes are from P/al. 18. 13,
atural causes, yet there is many times 14. & 77.
very speaking voice of God in them. 17, 18.

The Jews have a Tradition, that the
irst Earth-quake hapned in the dayes
of Nabor, as a sign of Gods anger be-
cause men were then become Idolaters.
They also say that when Joshua was bu-
ied there was an Earth-quake in the
place where he was interred, signifying
that God was offended at the Children
of Israel, because they layed not Jo-
shua's death to heart so much as they
hould have done, whence (a) that a V. Notar
Mountain is called Har gahas Lempereur in R
the trembling Mountain: R. Aza- Benjamin Hie-
ias (b) upon occasion of a terrible nerar p. 142.
Earth-quake, which hapned in Ferran- b Vide Hottin-
gia, A.D. 1571. wrote a Discourse on ger dissertation
that Subject, and the Title of his Book de Terræ motu
P. 186.

Kol Elohim h. c. The voice of God.
and the Holy Scriptures mention
Earth-quakes as being sometimes Prog-
nosticks of Mutations and Miseries,
& Signs of divine anger. Amos 1. 1.
Jech. 14. 5. Luk. 21. 1. 1 Sam. 14, 15.
The great Revolutions and Conjuncti-
ons of the Planets come to pass accord-
g to the ordinary course of nature;
but are they wont to be attended with.

C remarkable

remarkable Commotions in this low World, as is commonly observed & believed by Learned Men, & may further be declared in the close of this Discourse. The like is to be said of notable Eclipses of the Luminaries in Heaven. I confess I have not so great an Opinion of the ominousness of Eclipses, as I perceive some Learned Good Men have, since every Year, there is an Eclipse taken notice of in one part of the Earth or other. Nevertheless whoso reads *Calvisius* and other Chronologers, will perhaps think that such notion is not wholly to be slighted. Chronologers observe that in the very Year when the ten Tribes were carried into Captivity, there hapned a great Eclipse of the Sun, which came not to pass without a special hand of divine providence; unto this the Prophet seemeth to allude, Amos 8. 9. That Eclipse was ominous of a Dark Day coming upon Samaria. Many notable Instances might be produced to this purpose. And something hath been observed among our selves, which seems to confirm their Opinion, who believe that total and central Eclipses are ominous of mutations where they happen. There was such an Eclipse

the Sun in New England (Aug. 12.
D. 1672.) the day before the Commencement, and that Year the Colledge was Eclipsed by the death of the Learned President there, worthy M. Chauncy; and two Colonies (viz. Massachusetts, and Plymouth) by the death of two Governors, who died within a twelve month after. Known unto God are his works from the beginning of the world. He that rideth upon the heavens, and in his Excellency on the Earth, when he decreed that such events should come to pass; did also determine that such things shoule go before. all then such mighty works of God Comets are, be insignificant things? Here are (as in the last Chapter we shall more amply express) who think that Comets have a natural influence on the Earth. *Hevelius* (d) acknowledgeth that the Blaze proceeding from some Comets, doth strike the earth, though Men perceive it not, because then the Comet must be in Conjunction with the Sun. The accurate and ingenious *Kepler* (e) supposeith that the size of some Comets, is perforated by the Earth. If so, they may well cause droughts, and many other miseries. Others take them to be indicant

^d Ubi supra
Page 319.

^e In *Cometarum Physiologix* P.
104.

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rather then natural (they may be, are for my part I believe they are both signs of evils to come; like, as, strange apparitions in the air, Armies fighting Ships sailing there, and the like have no natural influence to cause wars and commotions where they are seen only they are indications of such troubles at hand. It may furthermore be added, that though evils should not follow, God may in his merciful providence, cause such sights to be observed that so he might awaken Mortals to Repentance. He sometimes threateneth because he would not strike.

f Lege eum de civitate dei L.2 C.21.L.3.C.1 L.22.C.8.

*Augustine (f) speaketh of a fiery Cloud that hung over the City of Constanti nople, whereat the People were amazed and fell to praying and crying to God for mercy, and promised reformation of their evil wayes, and Judgement did not follow. Volens quidem Deus terre re civitatem, & terrendo emendare. know there are that esteem Prognostications of this nature, as weak and groundless. So doth *Eraustus*, and many Popish Authors, and some few others. *Vincentius Guinensis* made a Oration de felicitate Comistarum, decla ring that the Blazing Star which ap peared An. 1618. was an happy Blazing*

ing Star, but I believe there is not
one good man in the World of his mind
as to that particular Comet. A (g) g Franciscus
Jesuit (who I suppose is still living) hath
else words, *plerisque cometas absque*
la calamitate fuisse affero. A false and
bold assertion. Another Jesuit (h) h Ricciolus de
less learned than the former, at-
tempting to give a Catalogue of happy
comets, could not reckon up above
several such since the World began, and
none of those were attended with the
most direful effects that can be men-
tioned; only because Tamelain prosper-
d, it must be called a *Faustous Co-*
met. I have elsewhere mentioned, that
the Wise Men among the Gentiles al-
ways looked upon *Blazing Stars* as
lorum pranuncios, the Heralds, and
messengers of evil Tidings to the world.
The ancient Doctors in the Christian
Church, *Tertullian, Damascene*, and (i) i Quos vide ci-
many others, were of the same Opini-
tatos apud Tan-
on. And so are the generality of our
dern and judicious Divines. And
cely this Opinion tends more to
ty, and the fear of God, than theirs
h, who think that *Blazing Stars* sig-
no more then a Cloud in the air.
moreover, of weighty considera-
with me, (and I hope will be so

Milleit Astro.
L.8.P.582.

Ricciolus de
Cometis P. 34

in dis-
sertatione de
celo Quest. 7.
Par 4.

k Cometa
rr a Cbris-
sto dicitur
Franzins de
interpretatione
Scripturæ Pag
1023.

with many others) that the Scripture doth declare, not only that the Stars are for signs, but that Fearful sights in the Heavens (k) (and such are Comets) signify calamitous times, and that signs in the Stars, betoken a storm among the Nations upon Earth, and that Pillars of smoke portend a notable day the Lord to be at hand; also the experience both of the former, and of the present age declareth, that when Blazing Stars have been seen, great mutations and miseries have come upon Mortals, as will by the subsequent Relation be made to appear.

CHAP. III.

The History of Comets from the beginning of the World to the first coming of Christ; together with some remarkable Events attending them.

There are sundry Learned men, who affirm that in the Year after the Creation 1656. which was (according to the computation of those great Chronologers, *Calvisius* and *Helvicius*) two thousand two hundred and nine years before our Saviours nativity,

ere was seen a formidable *Blazing*
ar, which all the old World beheld
 for the space of nine and twenty dayes.
 appeared first in the sign of *Pisces*,
 and in a moneths time passed through
 the twelve Signs of the *Zodiack*, as
 affirmed by (a) *Herlicius*. (b) *Eck-*
irminus, and *Röckenbachius*. This is
 the first *Comet*, that any Writers (so
 far as in my small reading I have obser-
 ed) make mention of. Immediate-
 upon its appearing *Methuselah* died,
 and according unto the signification of
 the name, which his Father *Enoch* (be-
 ing a Prophet) imposed upon him:
 the next Year, the Flood came, where-
 all the Men, Women and Children
 throughout the Earth (excepting eight
 persons) perished. And it is the
 judgement of some; + that more per-
 sons were drowned by *Noe's* flood
 than are now living upon the face of
 the whole Earth, or ever have been at
 the time since that.

Anno Mundi. 1744. There appeared
 Comet in the sign of *Capricorn*, which
 the space of sixty five dayes passed
 through three of the Cælestial Signs.
 the building of *Babel*, confusion of
 languages, and consequent dispersing
 of Mankind throughout the World;

^a *In descriptione*^b *cometæ 1607.*^b *In Historia**cometarum*[†] *Aventinus**Sebastianus**Frank. Galii.*^c *Testante Roc-*
kenbachio de
cometis

d. subito non
comparuit trans-
latus a diis. Be-
rosus. forte a
malis lenoniis
ob maximum
impietatem.
Funccius.

f. Berossus

g. Idem ubi supra

b. Funccius.

have been noted as Events attending that Comet. *Nimrod*, (the first Tyrant in the world) was (d) carried away after an unknown manner. Some think that God permitted the Devil to carry that most wicked man alive body and soul to Hell.

A. M. 2118. A Comet was observed in the sign of *Aries*, which continued for the space of 22 dayes. After this followed that Famine mentioned in the Scripture which caused *Abraham* to remove into *Egypt*. Also *Cam-senuus* (f) headed an Army, and fell upon the *Assyrians*, but *Ninias* withstood him, in Battle overcame him, and caused his head to be cut off.

A. M. 2128. (g) Not many years after the death of *Abraham*, another Comet appeared in the sign of *Leo* for the space of nine dayes. Great mutations and miseries quickly followed in the World, as *Serapis* and *Osiris* (*Egyptian Demons*) had prognosticated. Also, that Famine in *Isaac's* dayes of which we read Gen. 26. 1. About this time *Phaeton* (who is thought to be that Son of *Cham* who is by *Moses* called *Pbut*) (h) caused a fearful conflagration in *Italy*. Whence it was called then *Palesana*, i.e. the burnt Countrey.

A. M.

A.M. 2230. A fiery and terrible comet was seen, appearing in *Sagittarius*, moving after a strange manner, presenting the form of an imperie & ^{i Lib. 2.25.}

circle (i) 'Tis judged that *Pliny* speaks this Prodigy. It was by the King of Tyre then living called by the name of *Vortex fumigans sed sine igne.* which seems to confirm their opinion

to think that in old time a Comet was known by that Name (k) of a Pillar of smoke. After this Comet, there was a ^{k Mede Dis-}
^{course or John}
^{o earth for (l) seven years together,} ^{10.28. P.27}
^{and that in all Countries; viz. that} ^{l Hujus famis}
^{oken of in the Scripture in Joseph's} ^{meminit Justi-}
^{me, which followed the seven years} ^{nus Lib. 36. &}
^{enty in Egypt. Canaan, Ethiopia,} ^{Orosius Lib. 1.}
^{Egypt and other Countries felt the}
^{resul effects of that Prodigy.} ^{Cap. 8.}

A.M. 2453. (m) A Comet was observed in *Syria, Chaldea, &c.* in the sign of *Capricorn*; in which year the children of *Israel* were delivered from their bondage to the *Egyptians*, when *Pharaoh* and his Host received at fatal and memorable overthrow, much celebrated in the Holy Book God.

A.M. 2770. In the (n) Moneth of *August*, a formidable Comet appeared in *Gemini*. After which followed the death

^{m Rockenba-}
^{chius in libro}
^{supracitato.}

^{vid. Alsted}
^{præcogn Theol}

^{L.2.P.451.}

^{n Idem.}

Death of that wicked Tyrant *Amene-*
mos. Also, that long and miserable
 War which arose about *Helena*, and the
 doleful destruction of *Troy*. Likewise
 the War of the *Amazons*, with the
Thebans, was near this time.

e Idem.

*p De quo come-
 ta prætorius,
 Lycosthenes,
 Rockenbachi-
 us, Eckstormi-
 us, Hevelius,
 &c. Scripserunt*

*+ vid. Funcit
 Chronol.*

A.M. 2795. A Comet (p) was seen
 in *Aries*, flaming for the space of 43
 dayes. This was in the dayes of *Sam-*
 son, at (and by) whose death all the
Lords of the Philistines, and about 3000
 Men and Women were slain by the fall
 of their Idol's Temple, as they were Sa-
 crificing to *Dagon* their god. Histori-
 ans also speak of a Comet which was ta-
 ken notice of about the Year of the
 World 9458, and was termed *Ceratius*,
 (p) because of its appearing crooked,
 like to an Horn. Writers vary about
 the præcise year, when this Comet ap-
 peared. Only it is indubitable, that it
 was in the dayes of *Anaxagoras* and *De-*
mocritus, who are the most antient Wri-
 tters that give us any hystorical account
 about Comets. There was a notable
 Eclipse of the Sun, preceding that Co-
 met; which *Calvillus* judgeth to be
 extraordinary and supernatural. Re-
 markable Providences which hapned
 about that time + were; *Haman's*
 bloody Plot to Massacre all the *Jews* in
 one

the day, together with the strange discovery and disappointment of that hel-
lish contrivance. Also, Xerxes his mo-
nths who put the whole World into
uproar, mustering together an Ar-
my of seventeen hundred thousand Foot
and fourscore thousand Horse, and a
fleet consisting of above two thousand
allies. Yea, Herodotus reporteth
that his Army did at least consist of a-
bove five Millions ; designing to subdue
Greece. But his Navy was vanquished
by Themistocles his great Army routed.
So less then three hundred thousand
soldiers under the Command of Mar-
tinus were all slain ; Athens was
burnt.

A.M. 3518. (Or as others com-
pute the age of the World, An. 3537.)
here was seen a fearful Comet for 75.
days together (q) Pliny (r) Plutarch, q L.2.C. 25
(s) Aristotle, and other ancient Writers, r In Lysandro.
s Meteorologie
speak of this Comet. Anaxagoras took
pon him to predict, that an horrible
tempest would follow. He hapned to
onjecture right. There was (t) a tCharimander
orange Whirlwind, that took a little in libro de Co-
Rock off from a great Rock, and listed metis.
up on high, and carried it away
rough the air, until it fell down at
Egos, a River in Thrace, to the amaze-
ment

*u Ricciolus de
Cometis.*

ment of the people there, who supposed that mighty Stone to have come down out of Heaven. But the greatest commotion attending this Comet was, that civil war among the *Grecians*, called the *Peloponnesian War*, which continued for 27 years, until *Greece* was almost emptied of inhabitants. Also, (u) pestilential and mortal *Catarrhs* so prevailed in *Athens*, as greatly to depopulate that place. A prodigious Earthquake hapned about a year after this, so that a Mountain was broken in pieces, and a City turned into a Island.

*w Aristoteles in
Meteor L. 1.C6
Mizaldus L. 1.
Cap. 11.
Eberus, Peuce-
rus Ekstomius
& alii.*

A.M. 3537. (or as others 3553) a septentrional Comet appeared in January which many (w) Writers have taken notice of. That fearful slaughter of the *Athenians*, which Historians make mention of, did accompany this Prodigy. About nine years after that (x) another Comet was observed, appearing in the winter time, immediately after Sun set. At first only the stream and not the Star was seen (because of its nearness to the Sun) which was extended over a third part of the heavens, i.e. 130 degrees. It ascended to *Orions* girdle, and there disappeared. After that, hapned that Earthquake and

*x Aristoteles
ubi supra. Se-
neca. Nat.
Qu.L.7.C.16.*

eluge in Achaia; wherein multitudes perished. Helice and Buris (two famous Cities) were lost in the Sea. It is about this time that Nehemiah built the walls of Jerusalem, and then the times were troublous, Dan. 9.25.

A.M. 3594. There was seen in the year, a bearded Comet, which afterwards changed its form and appeared like a Spear. The remarkable Events then observed, were the burning of Diana's Temple at Ephesus, and Alexander surnamed the Great, his Birth in the same day. Ptolomæus Alorites, killed the King, and Reigned in Macedonia. A miserable Destruction came upon Sidon.

Fifteen years after, there was another Comet, near the Equinoctial circle, (2) ^z Aristoteles Sagittarius, continuing nineteen years. What strange and amazing changes hapned in the World after that means of Alexander the Great, is known to all men. Of him the Prophet Daniel speaks, Chap. 8.5. when he saith, He saw an He-goat come from the west, on the face of the whole Earth, and touched not the ground. For Alexander made speedy work in conquering the nations. In the space of six years, the face of things all the Earth over was changed.

^z Aristoteles

L.I.C.7.

Rockenbachius.

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changed. The Persian empire brought to its period, and the third of Daniel's Monarchies then began.

a Rockenbachius

A. M. 3729. There was a Comet (a) appearing in *Aries*, for the space of 22 dayes. After which great War in *France* followed. *Selæuchus*, the King of *Asia* and *Syria* treacherously Murdered. *Amilcor* marching with a Army into *Spain* enlargeth the Domions of the *Carthaginians*.

b Rockenbachius Lycosthenes. v. Joseph Antiq. Jul. L. 12. C. 3

A. M. 3752. A Comet was seen som few dayes in *Capricorn*, and two Moonths after again in *Cancer*, for the space of 19 dayes. (b) Two years after this, another Comet of a stupendous magnitude appeared for eighty daye together; this I take to be the same which some Authors place about ten years after; viz. a Comet appearing in the sign of *Pisces*, extending it self over (near upon) a fourth part of the Heavens, (c) and its fulgor was such as did overcome the brightness of the Sun, so as that it was seen not only in the night but also in the light day.

c Cornelius Gemma in Cosmo. L. 1C. 8

Mithridates his wars, and those between *Antiochus* and *Achaus*, and the bloody Battle fought between the *Romans* and the *Carthaginians*, whereat *Hannibal* was overcome by *Marcellus*.

an

d Asdrubal by the Scipio's; the death
the King of Sicily (whose Son suc-
-ding, and carrying himself insolent-
was slain) are mentioned as great
ents attending that Prodigy. In
s second Punic war fifteen hundred
ousand lost their lives. In Spain, no
s then 300 Towns were destroyed.

A.M. 3789. A Comet was seen in
es appearing thirty two dayes. King
euchus was poisoned, and there suc-
-ded Antiochus, whom his flatterers
led Epiphanes, but the Scripture
ns him a vile Person. He raised a
rible Persecution against the Church
God, committing horrid and out-
ious Cruelties, defiling the Temple,
erdicting the publick worship of God
x.ii.21,31. He was a notable
pe of Antichrist, nor is it to be won-
d at, if a Star, Blaze in Heaven,
en such miseries were coming on the
th.

Rockenbachius writeh of a Comet
bearing A.M. 3795 for the space of a
ur and three weeks together. But
re must needs be some mistake in
Relation, and therefore I præter-
it, and proceed unto,

s. M. 3798. (or as others 3782)
en there appeared a Comet in Sep-
tember.

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tember, presently upon an Eclipse
the Moon. After which Perseus the
last King of Macedonia was overcom
by Æmilius. Within 10 years an
ther Comet appeared, which was at
tended with a woful Dearth and Plag
and a long war between the Cartha
nians and the Romans. An Army
the Bastans going over the Ice, it bro
under them, that very few escaped wi
their lives.

e Nat. Quest.
L.7.C.15.

A.M. 3819. There appeared
Comet in the sign of Capricorn, in ma
gnitude equalling the Sun, and with i
light overcoming the darkness of the
night. Of this Seneca (e) and after
him many others have written. The
Prodigy was attended with the Achai
war. The City of Carthage was ta
ken and destroyed by Scipio. The City
of Corinth was burnt by Mummius.

f Seneca ibid

g Lib.37.

About ten years after that, another
Comet appeared for the space of eight
three dayes, of which Seneca writes.
At the first appearance it was very small
but within a few dayes it grew to a st
pendious magnitude, (f) extending
self over the Via Lactea, so as was wo
derful to behold.

(g) Justin speaketh of a Comet
whose fulgor was like that of the Su

Concerning Comets.

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The tail of it being 90 Degrees in length, shining so as that all the heaven seemed to be of a light fire, which supposed to be the same with that mentioned by Seneca. As for Events, body. Battles were fought between Romans and the Gauls, wherein an infinite number of men were slain; so wars between the King of Syria and the King of Egypt. The King of Syria was deserted by his Souldiers, ta-

n and slain;

A.M. 3863. (Or according to ^g Scribentibus computation of others Anno 3879) Rockenbach.
A Comet was seen in the sign of ^g Ebero, & alii.
go, continuing 94 dayes. This was
it which (h) Pliny calleth *Terrificum*
us, the terrible Star. Mithridates
aded Asia; after which followed
t bloody Civil War between *Ma-*
and *Octavius*.

A.M. (Circiter) 3900. Several (i)
mete were observed as portentous of
War between Pompey and Cæsar; ⁱ Testibus Mi-
of Pompey his fall. It is also re- nio, Lucano,
cted (k) that Cæsars death was at &c.
ded with a Comet of that sort which Mizald. L. T.
alled *Xiphias*. C.9.Rockenb.

A.M. 3920. A (l) Comet appear- ^l Licosthenes
in Libra, flaming for 95 dayes. The Rockenbach.

D same

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same year Antonius being overcome
killed himself, and Octavius Caesar sub-
dued the Land of Egypt. It is almost
incredible to relate how many Millions
lost their lives in those distracted times
by the Roman sword at home and abroad.

And thus much for Comets appear-
ing from the beginning of the World
until the Incarnation of the Son of
God; so far as Authors have taken no
tice of them.

CHAP. IV.

An Historical Account of what Blaz-
ing Stars were seen within the first five
hundred Years after Christ's Incar-
nation, and the Notable Events which
still followed them.

V V E proceed to consider what
Blazing Stars have appeared
since our Saviours Nativity. So
mention that, which directed the Magi
to the Town and House where Christ
was born. The superstition of former
ages hath pictured that Star with
Blaze pointing towards Bethlehem. But
Tycho and (m) others, have by inv-

mv. Ricciolum.
de novis stellis
C. 19. P. 179.
Ec.

ible Arguments, proved that that admirable Star was not a Comet properly.

The first then which we shall take notice of, is, that which was seen, A.D. 13. appearing in the sign of *Aries* (n) for the space of 32 dayes.

*n Alstedius in
Chron. C. 49*

*Arseruntq; toti passim minitantia mundo
Lumina --*

After which three Roman Legions perished; *Quintilius Varius*, was slain by the Germans. Upon whom the Emperor *Tiberius* maketh war.

*Cum fera dætorem Germania Varum:
Insecitq; trium legionum sanguine campos.*

A.D. 14. As *Calvisius* reckons, but according to other Chronologers A.D. 16. (o) divers Comets (or several ap-

*o Suetonius.
Alsted.*

pearances of the same Comet) were observed, which have been judged as portentous of the death of *Augustus Cesar*, who died not long after. Other remarkable Events attending this Comet, were, a great Mutiny in the Roman Army, terrible slaughters amongst the Germans, whole King *Arminius* was slain by his own Kinmen: an Earthquake whereby a great part of the City of *Rome* was ruined, and an inundation through the River *Tiber's* overflowing so that many Persons & Edifices were destroyed.

D 2 A.D.

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p Lycosthenes.
Alsted.encyclo
P. 2159.

A. D. 56. A Star was seen in the sign of *Cancer*, (p) blazing for the space of four Moneths, directing its course from the North towards the East. The Emperour *Claudius* died, bloody *Nero* succeeded, who murdered besides his own Mother, and his Wife; and his Master *Seneca*, an infinite number of holy Martyrs. The same Comet appeared again the next Year, so that *Nero's* Reign began with a blazing Star, great Commotions hapned in *Judea*. Chronologers observe that it was in this Year, that *Hermogenes* and *Phytellus* made woful Apostasie and Schisme in the *Arianick* Churches; and so apcread to be no other then wan-

dring Stars, 2 Tim. 3.15.

A.D. 62. A Comet was seen flaming in the Heavens, (q) for the space of six moneths together, having its motion from the East, partly towards the West, and partly towards the South (r) This appearing after *Nero's* quinquennium, wherin he seemed a good Emperour, was expired, 'tis (r) thought that it was portentous of his after unparalleled Cruelties, and most Tragical end.

q Seneca Nat.
Q.L. 7. Chap.
21,09,

r Alstedius

s Tacitus Roc-
kenbachius.
Mizaldus. Al-
sted.

A. D. 66. Another Comet (s) ap-
peared

peared for six Moneths together, in the sign of *Gemini*. After which followed prodigious Tempests, and a fearful Earth quake, whereby *Laodicea*, *Hierapolis*, and *Colossi* (famous Cities in the lesser *Asia*) were sorely afflicted. This Blazing Star was attended with a terrible Persecution, in the which the Apostles *Paul* and *Peter* were put to Death. *Rome* was set on fire by *Nero*, that Conflagration continued for six dayes together. Soon after this *Menander* and his Followers caused great trouble among Christians in the Primitive times. He was an Antichrist, i.e. a false Christ, it is not improbable but that the Apostle *John* hath respect o him as well as to other pretended Christs, 170.2.18.

A D. 70. (or as others 71) A blazing Star like a flaming Sword appeared for a year together. It was first observed at the time of the Jews Passeover viz. on the eighth of April) in the sign of *Virgo*. This was attended with a new Emperour, viz. *Vespasian*, with the destruction of *Jerusalem*, and the most miserable ruine of the Jewish nation, by the Sword of the *Romans*. Many other Prodigies were taken

^t Josephus ad
bello Iudaico-
cum. L.7.

^u Zonaras, T. I.

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notice of at the same time. Armies fighting in the Air, &c. *Xepbilinus* wri-
teth that there were two prodigious Eclipses of the Moon, viz. that the Moon was obscured on the fourth, and on the seventh day; And from him *Lycosthenes* speaks to the same purpose. But *Calvisius* did by calculation find, that there were two Eclipses of the Moon this year, which were not super-natural.

*w Plin. L 2.
C. 25. Suetonius. Lycosthenes, &c.* A.D. 76. (or 77.) A Comet called *(w) Acontias*, because of its appearing in the form of a Dart, was observed. The Emperour *Titus* (in the fifth year of his Consulship) described this Comet in verse. The next year another Comet was seen (or rather the same Comet appeared the second time) there followed an horrible Earth-quake in *Cyprius* and other places, whereby many Towns perished. *(x)* The next year a Comet was seen again eighty dayes. Earth-quakes followed, and a terrible Plague in *Rome*, and a remarkable Drought. When *Vespasian* the Emperour saw this Blazing Star, he joked at it, saying; it concerned the *Parthians* who had long hair, not him who was Bald. But soon after *Vespasian* himself

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himself died. This Comet was attended with the Heresie of *Cirinus* and the *Ebionites*.

I cannot find in Authors, that any Comet appeared after that, for about the space of fifty years, viz. not until the year of our Lord 138, when a Star ^a was seen blazing 39 nights together in the signs of *Aquarius* and *Pisces*. An earthquake followed, so that the Cities of *Nicopolis* and *Cesarea* were swallowed up thereby.

A.D. 145. (a) A Star was seen blazing in *Aquarius* six nights. An earth-quake and a Prodigious Flood ^a followed. *Rhodus* and other famous places were shaken after an horrendous manner. The *Valentinian* Hereticks prevailed about this time.

A.D. 188. A bearded Comet (from its form called *Pogonias*) was seen. (b) Great Wars ensued in the Roman Empire. The Temple of peace (so called), was suddenly burnt down. The capitol was struck with Lightning and set on fire, the neighbouring Edifices wherein was a famous Library) was consumed. The next year the City of Rome was afflicted with a sore Famine. About this time the *Britans* losing their

^a Rockenbachius

^b Herodian L.
I. Lavater.

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King *Lucius* fell into dissentions amongst themselves, and so became prey to the *Romans*.

*c V. Hevelii
Cometog. C. 12
P. 805.*

A.D. 195. In the dayes of the Emperour *Severus* (c) a Star was seen blazing for many dayes together. Which was then looked upon as an Omen of approaching Miseries. About that time there were great wars between the *Romans* and the *Parthians*; Also lamentable contentions and schismes among Christians about the observation of *Easter*. The Bishop of *Rome* took up on him to excommunicate those that were not of his mind about that matter whereby a world of sin and trouble was occasioned, and way made for Persecution. Not long after this the *Originists* and those that would be called *Apostolici* occasioned great troubles in the Churches.

*d Calvisius
Eycosthenes.*

A.D. 217. (d) A Comet appeared in the sign of *Pisces* for 18 dayes. This was attended with the Death of *Caracalla*. The Emperour *Antonius* visiting the City of *Alexandria*, desired to see the Youth therein, and giving a signe to his Soldiers caused them to be cruelly slain. The *Romans* made great slaughter amongst the *Goths*. The King

Parthia came with a great Army against the Romans. The Emperour ed.

After this time, no Blazing Star ap-
peared (or however none is mentioned
by any Hystorian, that I have met with)
or near upon an hundred years. The
next was (e) A. D. 306. soon after
which *Constantius Chlorus* (the Father
of great Constantine) died at York in
England (then called Britain.) The bla-
zing Star was attended with the most
bloody and cruel Persecution that ever
was, viz. that under *Dioclesian*, who
promised he had (according to his design)
destroyed all that did bear the Name of
Christ throughout the Earth. This
year did *Miletius* his Schism happen.
Within a few years *Arius* began to dis-
seminate his Pestiferous Doctrine, and
Arianisme put the African Churches
to an unhappy Blaze.

A.D. 323. A Comet appeared (f)
in the sign of *Virgo*. After which the
Arian Heresie prevailed exceedingly, so
that the Christian world (as *Jerome*
speaks) sighed to see it self become an-
Arian. The memorable wars between
Constantine and *Licinius* hapned about
that time, which issued in wonderful
changes.

e Scribeante
Rockenbachis

f Peccerus de
divinatione. P.
359: Alst. &c.

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changes, the whole Empire being turned upside down. The marvellous thing spoken of in the twelfth Chapter of the Revelation were now accomplished.

A.D. 337. A stupendous Comet and terrible to behold, was seen in the sign of *Aries* (*g*) continuing for the space of six Months: Immediate after which followed the death of Constantine, surnamed the great, whose death made way for great Divisions in the Roman Empire, and infinite misery upon all Christendome. His Son Constantius being an *Arian*, quickly became a Persecutor.

A.D. 363. A Blazing Star (*h*) was seen and that not only in the night but in the day time. This was attended ex Ammiano L.25. with Julian the Apostate his war against the Persians, and with the prodigious death of that great Apostle. About two years after that, another Comet was seen in *Aries*, continuing eleven weeks. A most prodigious Earthquake followed (*i*) which was perceived (as Historians affirm) in all parts of the world. The like to this Earthquake was never known. The waves of the Sea were roul'd out of their chanel and Ships left hanging on the tops of

*Orosius L.
C.19.*

*Eutropius L.10
Alstedius Sc.*

*b Eckstormius
ex Ammiano L.25.
D. Christiani
Hevelius Sc.*

*i Alst. ubi Ju-
piter in Ency-
clopedia p. 2165
Calvisius in
Chronol.*

House

uses; & a fearful Inundation, so that
ny Cities, and innumerable Souls per-
ished by those Calamities. Many
persons about Constantinople were kil-
l'd by an Hail-storm. The *Macedo-*
n Heresie caused great troubles and
turbances in the Church of Christ.
The Jews attempted to rebuild a Tem-
ple at *Ierusalem*, but fire came from
heaven, and utterly consumed their
foundation. The cruel Persecution
under *Valens* began the next year, so
that the Church was in great danger of
being carried away by that flood, as
is foretold in the *Revel.* Ch. 12. 15.

D. 383. (or as some Historians A.D.
93.) A Comet was seen of that sort
which is called (k) *Xiphias* in respect of
its appearing like a Sword, bigger and
higher than the Morning Star, which
as then where this Comet appeared,
iz in *Libra*, continuing for the space of
our Months, viz. from the beginning
of *May* to *September*. Its motion was
wards *Ursa Major*, in the midst of
which Constellation it disappeared.
This was looked upon as portentous of
Eugenius his Invasion. The Battle
fought between *Theodosius* & *Eugenius*
as a very memorable Providence,
inasmuch

Rockenba-
chus. Alfred.

Niceph. L.

12. C. 33. 38.

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inasmuch as upon Theodosius his Pra
ers, God sent a Storm which beat ba
the Arrows of the Enemy into their
own faces, the Stars in their course
fighting against them. Some mention
Valentinians strangulation, and a pro
digious overflowing of the River Nilus
as direful consequents of this Comet.
The Helvidians, Priscillianists, and o
ther Hereticks who caused great trou
bles amongst Christians began th
Year.

I Peucerus &
jud Typhon:
Tom. I. P. 619
625.

A.D. 389. A Blazing Star appeare
from the North, being in the sign
Gemini, continuing for twenty dayes. (le
Its Magnitude and brightness equal
Lucifer. In form like unto a Pillar.
Proclus observed this Comet to be
higher then the Planet Jupiter. One
remarkable event which hapned after
it, was, a most prodigious Hail-storm
continuing without intermission for two
dayes together. Great Commotion
and changes in France by reason of
Marcomers invasion hapned not long
after this. Also wars between Theodo
sius and Maximus.

m Lavater ex
Sozom. Hist.
Eccl. L. 8. C. 4.
Claudianus in
Poemate de
bello Getico

A.D. 402. (circiter) (m) An ex
ceeding bright Comet in form like
Sword was seen. After this Gain
mad

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de an attempt upon Constantinople. Valens waging war with the Goths; overcame them. The Emperour Arcadius died. An Army consisting of less then two hundred thousand barbarians under Radagiso made a fatal irruption upon the Roman Empire. Now was the first Trumpet which John speaks of in the *Apocalyps* sounded. These terrible shakings in the Roman Empire being fitly set forth that of a storm of Hail, and Fire, and Blood, Rev. 8.7. as Mr. Mede interpreth. A great Persecution was set against the Christians in Persia. So the Persecution raised by the Donists in Africa, was within a year two of this time.

A.D. 409 There was an amazing Eclipse of the Sun, so that the Stars were seen in the day time. This was ended with a fearful Comet appearing like a Sword in the sign of Virgo, blazing for the space of four months (viz. June, July, August, September.) The greatest Calamities followed that have been heard of in the World. All Europe, a great part of Asia, and Africa was overwhelmed with Judgments. More Drought, and Famine and Pestilence,

n Nicoph. L. 13. C. 36. AH
sted.

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sence, and wars amongst the Nation
swept away an infinite number of Men.
Rome was taken by *Alaricus*, the Goath.
who set up whom he pleased as Emperour there.
Now did the second Angel sound the Trumpet, and the *Roman*
Empire suffer a violent death, and
therefore resembled unto a *Sea* made
bloody by the fall of a great Mountain
in a flame, as the forementioned great
Interpreter doth expound, Rev. 8.8.

• Herlicius.
Altiedius, &
Alii.

• Mercellinus.
Eckstormius
Schoffero.
Nevelius.

A.D. 418. A Comet was seen in
Libra, in the Moneth of *September*.
Great Sedition and Commotions followed throughout *Italy*, and in *Spain*.
The *Africans* prepared a formidable Fleet and marched towards *Rome*. Not long after this, Famous *Hierom* died.
The Pestilent Heresie of *Pelagius* occasioned much trouble in the Churches.

A.D. 423. An horrible Comet was seen flaming: (p) Immediately upon which the Emperour *Honorius* died. *Castinus* with an Army cometh upon the *Vandals* and maketh great slaughter in *Spain*. The *Scots* and *Picts* grievously infest the *Britains*.

A.L.

A.D. 423. This Year upon a great Eclipse of the Moon, a Comet appeared, (q) after which Prodigious showers of Blood were rained down upon ^q Lycophenes Tholous in France for a whole day together. A terrible Persecution was raised against the professors of the truth in Africa, by Genserichs. Theodoricus the King of the Visgeths warring against Attila, was slain.

A.D. 448. A Comet was seen in the sign of Leo, continuing many dayes. (r) There followed a Prodigious Earth quake in the East. Attila oppressed and destroyed a great part of Italy. The Venetians perished by a Flood. The Eutichean Heresie began to prevail.

A.D. 454. (circiter) There were divers appearances of a Blazing Star which was attended with Earthquakes. (c) The Emperour died. Attila after he had destroyed seventy Cities in the East, and conquered the Northern parts, came with five hundred thousand Souldiers, and making searsful Devastations in Germany, was himself slain in a bloody Battle with ^s Sigebertus Funccius, Al^t Atius.

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Actius. Rome was taken and spoile
by *Gensericus.*

Zavater, Zysthenes, Alstedius. Historians make mention of two other Comets observed in this Century. The one (1) A.D. 450. which was followed with a sore Pest amongst miserable Mortals. The other A.D. 48 Aster which great troubles were raised by *Arian Hereticks.* *Gudamond* the King of the *Vaudals* became the Author of a great Persecution.

CHAI

CHAP. V.

f Comets which appeared between the Year 500
and 1000, with some remarkable Events.

A D. 519. A Bearded Comet appeared 26
dayes, in the East, pointing westward. (u)
ster which there was a wonderful Earthquake,
hereby many (not only persons but) whole Ci-
ties perished.

A. D. 533. A formidable Comet appread
the Moneth of December, in the sign of Sagit-
rius. (w) This was followed with an Earth-
quake. A popular tumult in Constantinople. A
ague at Antioch and in other places. The Huns
use troubles in Europe.

A.D. 541. A notable Comet appeared on
after Day. (x) There followed an universal
arth quake in the which Epidamion, Corinth and
nazerbum, did above other places suffer damage.
otilas overcame Demetrius in a Sea-fight, took
veral Cities and Countries. The memorable
anges wherein Belisarius was concerned, hap-
p'd about this time. Totila the King of the Goths
is called Flagellum dei Gods Scourge. He rai-
s'd a cruel Persecution against the Christians
which were at this time in Italy.

^u Calvisius ex Cedreno, Alsted. ^w Calvisius Prætorius;
^x Lycosthenes, Rockenbachius.

E

A. D.

A.D. 555. A Comet in the form of a Lan
or Spear was seen in the North, pointing West
ward. (1) After which Rome was taken by T
tila. The Huns wasted Francia and Thuringia.

A.D. 586. A Comet appeared for a Moneth
(2). It is observed, that this Comet was attended
with the death of many Princes. And the War
between Mauritius and the Persians. Also,
fearful inundation, and the Plague in Italy hapned
not long after.

A.D. 594. A formidable Blazing Star appea
red in January, for a Moneth together, and was
seen both in the morning and in the evening. (3)
After this, Italy was afflicted with Armies
Locusts. A sore Drought, Famine, and the
Sword were the woful attendants of this Pro
digie.

A.D. 600. (circiter) A Comet Horrendo
to behold, appeared six Moneths together. (4)
Mauritius (the Emperour) was by the Bishop
Romes instigation Murdered by Phocas. Great
contentions were kindled between the Bishops
Rome and Constantinople. The former, was no
declared to be the universal head of the Church.
Ever since this time the Bishops of Rome ha

y Funccius. Praetorius. Alstedius habet Annum 550.
Lavater. Rockenbachius. Fascic temporum. Alstedius &
habent annum. 589 a Diac. L.4.C.4.Lavater Alstedius, b
ceporus, L, 18. C. 35. Rockenbachius. Alstedius.
be

been no better then Blazing Stars. Four Years after (c) this, another Comet was seen in the Moneths of April and May, & again in November & December, † Not long after which Cosroes the King of Persia grievously infested the Roman Empire, He delivered ninety thousand Christians into the hands of the Jews, to be by them with wicked hands slain and murdered.

A.D. 620. Another Comet appeared. About this time † Mahomet began to diffuse his pestiferous Doctrine. He had an apostate Monk to help him in composing his diabolical Religion, whereby much of that part of the World, which had been enlightened with the Sun of Righteousness, was overwhelmed again with the darkness of Infidelity. He is therefore fitly set forth in the *Apocalypse*, by the type of a Star falling to the Earth, & a smoke arising therefrom, whereby the Sun & the Air was darkened; And it is not to be wondered at, if so great a Plague to the World as Mahometism, is, was preceded, and attended with Blazing Stars, as in the after Relations will appear. Never was the dominion of any Nation spread so far, and in so short a time as that of the Sarazens. In the space of about four-score Years there was added to the Diabolical

c Lycosthenes, † viz. Anno, 610. ut habet Alsted. in Chronol Cap.28. † Calvisius, Hevelius, & alii in annum 615. hinc Cometam transponere videntur.

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Kingdome of Mahomet, Palestina, Syria, both Armenia, almost all the lesser Asia, Persia, India, Egypt, Numidia, all Barbary, Portugal, Spain, a great part of Italy, as also Sicily, Candy, Cyprus, &c. Though many of these places were not subjugated to Mahomet, until the next Century. In a word, the Sarazens are not without reason thought to be intended by the first two Trumpets.

(d) Prophesied of in the Revelation. Those tormenting Scorpions proved a bitter Plague to the Christian World, more especially for the space of five prophetical Moneths (b. e. 15 Years;) and the times were then so woful, as that men did in those dayes seek Death, but could not find it, Rev. 9.6.

A.D. 633. A Blazing Star in form of a Sword standing towards the South appeared for a Moneth. (e) This was attended with an Earthquake for thirty dayes together. About this time the Sarazens subjugated Jerusalem, Damas-
cus, and all Syria.

A.D. 676. (Circiter) A Comet was seen divers times. (f) Once it appeared for three Moneths together, being seen in the Morning in August, rising in the East. In appearance like unto a flaming Pillar. The Plague and Famine followed, also a great Drought, so that it rained

d.v. Mede in locum. e Funccius, Lavater, Alsted, Sigebert. f Sigeber, Hist. Eccles. Cent. 7. C. 13.

not (g) in some places for the space of three years together. The Sarazens came with a great fleet into Sicily, and brake it upon the Roman Empire like a flood. Pope Donas died this year.

A.D. 684. A Comet was seen in the Moneths of December, January, and February. It was observed in the day time as well as in the night, near the seven Stars, shining with a dim light not unlike to that of the Moon when covered with a thin Cloud. (h) After this, most horrible Thunder-storms, Plagues, Famine, and Floods followed, to the amazing ruine of mortals. Also the direful flames of Vesuvius, brake forth to the no small terror and confusion of the Country adjacent.

A.D. 729. Some (i) write of two Comets appearing this year at the same time, viz. in the Moneth of January. The one in the Morning before the Sun, the other in the evening after Sun-set. But others do more probably conceive that by reason of its great declination, the same Comet appeared both in the morning and in the evening. (k) A terrible Plague followed in many places, especially at Constantinople in which City three hundred thousand were swept away by that Besom of Destruction. The Sarazens in-

g Bellarmine Chronol. in Anno 678. Alstedius Chron. ap. 49. G in Encycloped. P. 2171. b Platina in vita Bessiti. Lavater, Alsted, Ricciolus. i Lycosthenes, Lavater Almerius, Alstedius. k Ricciolus, Appianus, Galii.

vaded Spain. The Longobards fell upon Italy, besieged Rome it self. + Woful Tumults and Schisms were amongst professed Christians about the worshipping of Images. Not long after this the Christians under the conduct of Charles Martell slew above three hundred thousand Saracens.

A.D. 745. A Comet appeared in the latter end of this year. (l) Various Diseases and much Sicknes was observed to follow, in special a Plague of three years continuance miserably depopulated Sicily, the Mediterranean Islands, and all Greece.

A.D. 763. A Blazing Star appeared for the space of ten dayes in the East. (m) After that in the West twenty one dayes. Another Comet was seen about two years after this. Remarkable Events attending these Prodigies, were, the Turks breaking in upon Armenia; an intollerable cold Winter, and after that as fiery a Summer, and a very afflictive Drought.

A.D. 814. A most strange kind of Comet was observed in the Moonth of November. (n) Both the Light and the Figure of it was amazing to behold. It appeared like two Moons meeting

+ Hospinius de Origine imaginum P.59. v. Mordens Geography, P. 33. l Functius, Hevelius, Alsted, Prætorius. m Hist. Eccles. Cent. 8. Cap. 23. n Camerarius Append. Chronol. Niceph. P.54. Alsted.

nd departing, and sometimes like a Man without
n Head The principal Event attending this
Prodigy was the death of *Charles the Great*. The
Emperour himself was astonished at this Comet,
if we may call it a Comet) supposing it to por-
end his own Death, and great changes to follow
in his Dominions.

A.D. 837. A Comet (o) appeared in April in
the sign of *Virgo*, and in the space of 25 dayes
passed through *Leo*, *Cancer*, and *Gemini*, until it
came into the head of *Taurus*, and there disap-
peared under the feet of *Auriga*. The next year
another (or the same again) Comet appeared
in Autumn, in *Libra*, it was seen in the morning
before Sun rise, and of an horrendous aspect.
The Spring following another (or the same Co-
met) appeared in *Aries*, it was seen in the E-
vening.

A.D. 842. A Comet was observed in *Aqua-
rius*. (p)

A.D. 844. A Comet was observed by *Albu-
masar* to be above *Venus*. As for the remarkable
Events attending these Comets, thus frequently
appearing in so short a space, there are many
memorable passages noted by Historians as hap-
pening about this time. e g. The death of the
Emperour *Ludovicus Pius*, and of *Pipin King of*

o *Calvisius, Hevelius.* p *Funccius, Eckstormius. Car-
dande subtil. L.40.*

France. The Sarazens came upon Italy like a flood, not leaving Rome it self untouched; many of them perished in the waters as they returned into Africa. (q) An unhappy War brake out between Lotharius and his two Brethren Lewis and Charles. A mighty Army was brought into the Field, Lotharius was worsted. The greatest part of the Nobility and Flower of the French Nation was slain. * Not long after this in Germany, Famine prevailed so as that the Parents did eat their own Children, and sometimes Children their Parents.

A.D. 868. A Comet appeared (r) which was attended with a great Earth-quake. The next year the Emperour Lotharius died. The Danes cruelly wasted England, so did the Slaves do in Batavia at the same time. Michael the Emperour of the East, was deprived of the use of his reason, one of the meanest of his Servants killed him, and became an Emperour, between whom and the Sarazens there were great conflicts. The Greek and Latine Churches were at variance, and the Patriarch of Constantinople was deposed.

A.D. 874. A Blazing Star with long and fiery Beams appeared in the beginning of April, continuing for a Moneth, being seen in the day as well as in the night (s) The next year a Comet whose

q Imperial History. * Alsted Chronol. Cap 25. r Lauter. Alsted Galii. s Hector Boethius L. 10. Fol. 208. Alstedius, Rockenbachius Galii habent Annum 876. colour

olour was more red then useth to be; the tail
ery long, was seen in the Moneth of June. The
Plague and Famine followed. The cruel Danes
made more scartful slaughters in England, until
they got the Land into their possession. Ethus
the King of Scotland, and the Emperour Lewis
the second died this year. The Germans invade
France with an Army. Italy was again sorely af-
fested with the Sarazens.

A.D. 882. A Comet with a long tail was seen
in the Moneth of January (1) within a few dayes
after which Lewis the King of Germany died, al-
though the King of France died that year. The Nor-
mans fell upon Germany, and burned the famous
city of Trevirs. There was this year an attempt
to poyson the Pope (John the 8th.) but the poy-
son not being strong enough, one took an hammer
and knocked out his brains.

A.D. 902. A Comet appeared in the moneth
of May, for forty dayes. (u) The Hungarians
fell with a great Army upon Italy, destroying fa-
mous Cities. And in Lombardy they laid all waste
before them. The Sarazens spoiled Greece, and
the Islands of the Mediterranean Sea. Lewis the
King of the Longobards being taken Prisoner by
Frengerius (the Popes Emperour) had his eyes
knocked out. Soon after this Donaldus the King of
Scotland died.

t Calvisius, Lycosthenes, Alstedius. u Alstedius habet
annum 900, alij vero annum 904. Calvisius.

A.D.

A.D. 912. A red fiery Comet appeared in the sign of Capricorn. (w) After this the Hungarians caused woful Delolations in Germany. There was also a great inundation of Waters in Saxony. The Emperour Lewis the second having ill success in his Wars, died with grief, Alexanad the Emperour of the East, was taken ill as he was playing at Ball; the next day Blood issuing out of all parts of his Body died. Anastasius the Pope, and Abdal the Sarazens King died this year also.

A.D. 942: A Comet appeared in the Month of November continuing for about fourteen daye (x) There followed Civil Wars in Italy. A great Sedition and Rebellion in France. The Turks invaded Thrace. Constantine the King of Scotland betook himself to a Monastery. There was great Mortality of all sorts of living Creature and some parts of the World were afflicted with a sore Famine.

A.D. 944. A Comet appeared which was of marvellous magnitude near Cassiopea, with fiery Beams issuing from it. (y) The Plague, Floods, and Famine followed.

A.D. 975. A fiery Blazing Star was seen in the Month of August, continuing for eig

w Lycosthenes, Hermannus. Quidam habent annum 908. Mizaldus habet annum 913. x Eckstomius, Alstedius, Calvisius. y Lycosthenes, Lavater, &c.

moneths together. (z) The Emperour Otto, evously wasted Bohemia, which injuries were venged by the Duke of Bavaria. Zimiscas the Emperour was poysoned. Colinus the King of Scotland, Albaca the King of Corduba in Spain died.

A.D. 984. A Blazing Star was seen. (a) An Earthquake, Wars, Plague, Famine followed. The Emperour and the Pope died.

CHAP. VI.

Continuance of the History of Comets, with the Events attending them unto the Year 1200.

A.D. 1000. An horrendous Comet was seen appearing in the Moneth of December, about 9th P.M. (b) There followed a most terrible Earthquake. And great Wars between the Emperour of Constantinople and the Bulgarians. Otto the Emperour killed Crescentius who was then the principal man in civil power at Rome, whose Widow gave the Emperour a pair of Gloves infected with Poysen, which proved his Death. Ekfard the Duke of Saxony put in for the Imperial Crown, but he was resisted by the States of

^a Calvisius. ^b Lycosthenes, Alstedius, & Wolfius ex Chronol. Sax. Alstedius, Calvisius, Usher de statu Eccles. 3. p. 59.

the Empire, banished, and the next year killed
England was grievously infested by the
Danes. In *Scotland* the fish died in the waters,
as that they were in great multitudes cast up
the shoor, putrifying and stinking, that the
water was corrupted, and sickness followed. Also
grievous Famine attended this Comet, and a pr-
digious Drought, so as that both Men and Catt
died of thirst, most of the great Rivers in *Euro-*
^{pe} might be waded over.

A.D. 1005. A Blazing Star horrible to behol-
was seen flaming in the Heaven in the (c) Sprin-
time, for the space of thirteen dayes. And (d)
again in October. There followed a most fearfi-
Plague continuing for three years. In some pla-
ces whilst the living were burying the dead, the
drew their last breath, and were thrown into th
Grave with those whom they intended to leav-
there. Many whole Cities were utterly laid wa-
therby. And the Villages were emptied o-
their Inhabitants, so as that the Cattle belonging
to them had none to own them or look after them.
Above half the Inhabitants of *Germany* were swep-
away with that Besom of Destruction. A War
also between the Emperour of *Germany* and the
Polanders followed this Comet. The Duke of
Lorain (who was the last of *Carolus Magnus* his

e *Prætorius*. d *Lycosthenes*, *Sigebertus*, c. *Cal-*
visius.

Posterity

sterity.) died. Baldwin the Earl of Flanders
took up arms against his Uncle Godfrid Duke of
Lorraine whom the Emperour had constituted Suc-
cessor to the Duke of Lorain. About this time
there were great tumults and blood shed in Ger-
many, occasioned by the Emperours imposing
Cingardus as Arch-bishop of Triers, wheras
elber was before chosen, and the Duke of Bavaria
engaged in his quarrel against the Emperour.
A D. 1009. A Southern Comet terrible to
 behold was seen in the latter end of May. (e)
An unhappy Civil War in Germany followed. In
the Moneth of August, a great fleet of Danes lan-
ded in England, and cruelly destroyed the Inhabi-
bits of the Sea coast. This year also Pope John
XII. descended to his own place, whose Successors
one was * Petur Hogs Snout, being ashamed of
his Swinish Name (though not of his Swinish na-
ture) he called himself Sergius; ever since
which, it hath been the fashion for those that ar-
rive at the Popedome to have a new name given
them. The next year the Duke of Saxony
died. The Sarazens destroyed that most sumptuous
Church which the Christians had built in
Jerusalem, and burned down many Monasteries
and Religious Houses. The Normans made woful
vcock in the Netherlands, burning the Cities of

e Ricciolas ex Cardano. Hist. Eccles. Cent. 11. Cap. 13.
Petrus Bucca Perci.

Thile, Utrecht, &c. The + Plague swept away multitudes in many parts of the World. A great Inundation hapned, by reason whereof Flanders some thousands were drowned.

A.D. 1017. A Comet in form like a Beam, appeared in the sign of Leo, continuing for the space of four Moneths. (f) This was attended with Wars between the Danes and the Swedes. At the Pope set the Normans and the Greeks together by the ears. The Bishop of Utrecht took arms against the Earl of Holland. The Jews of Italy were exposed to great miseries, because (Historians relate) they were seen Mocking, Scourging, and Crucifying our Lord Christ effigie. In some parts of the World the Plague raged. This year also, the Duke of Austria died, and the Duke of Bulgaria was slain. France it rained Blood.

A.D. 1031. Another (g) Comet appeared. France was embroiled in civil Wars. Great mutations followed in Burgundy, by reason of the death of their King, which put an end to the Kingdome after it had continued for the space of 144 Years. Odo (the King of Burgundy his Sisters Son) put in for the Crown, but Conrad (the Emperour) waged War upon the Burgundians and deposed Odo. The Vandals fell upon the El-

+ Alsted Chron. ubi de mirabilibus dei & in encyclop.
2178. f Herlianus, Mizaldus Galii: g Glaber, Calvisius
pir

ire, laying wast above an hundred Villages, and carrying away many thousands of Captives. The Saracens burnt down many Towns and Cities in Syria. Also, with no less then a thousand Gallies they fell upon the maritime Islands. (b) It is moreover observable, that a Flood, and Plague, and Famine did attend this Blazing Star.

A.D. 1038. A Comet was seen. (k) This year Conrad the Emperour being in Parma, The people proved tumultuous & seditious, the event of which was, many of the Citizens were destroyed, and the City was burnt. A great Battle was fought between the Emperour of the East, and the Saracens, who having civil discords among themselves were overcome. The King of Castell subdued the Mores, whose King was killed. The King of Hurgaria died this year. Pandulph was by the Emperour ejected out of his Principality, (l) Thessalonica and other places were grievously afflicted with a Famine. The next Year several Princes expired; and the Emperour died suddenly.

A.D. 1042. A Comet was seen the sixth of October, continuing all that Month with long streaming Locks, having its Progress from the East towards the West. (n) Manias falling out with the Emperour, sought to get the Imperial

b Alstedius. I D Christian. Alstedius. k Calvisius.
Berosus. n Cedrenus Lycosthenes. Calvisius.

Crown upon his own head, for which end he took himself to the Bulgarians, and obtained a Victory over the Imperial Army. Nevertheless he was himself mortally wounded, and soon after died. Also, the Servians rebelled against the Eastern Emperour, who lost forty thousand of his Souldiers in endeavouring to subdue them. It was in this year, that *Hardecanute*, (o) who then Reigned in *England*, after he had barbarously caused his Brother *Harold* to be dug out of his Grave; as he was Feasting, died suddenly of an Apoplexy. *Alfred* succeeding in the Kingdome, died within a few Moneths. *Michael* the Emperour of the *East*, after he had Reigned four Moneths removed his Queen *Zoes* putting her into a Monastery, whereupon the multitude made a tumult, pursuing the Emperour with stones, forcing him to set the Queen at liberty, and then took him and put out his eyes, and sent him away into a Monastery, and another person married *Zoes* and became Emperour. * This year a Famine began, which lasted seven years.

A.D. 1058. A Comet was seen. (p) The King of *Poland* died. A Famine in that Countrey followed. *Isaacius* (q) the Emperour as he was going by water to *Constantinople*, was smitten with a Clash of Lightning, which did so astonish him, a-

^o Polydor, Virgil. * Alsted Chron. Cap. 25; p. Func-
cius, Alsted. q Calvisius.

that

that he laid down his Robes, and resigning his Crown unto one that was no way related to him, betook himself to a religious House, where of an Emperour he became a Porter.

A.D. 1066. An amazing Comet was seen by the whole World. (r) It appeared first in the beginning of May, and continued for the space of forty dayes. The body of it was as big as the Moon when at the full, but as it began to have stream; that increasing, the body of the Star decreased. Authors moreover affirm that another Blazing Star (or the same again) did appear in the two following years. (s) As for remarkable Events attending this Prog^r, they were such as these. Great Wars in many places of the World. e.g. In Asia, between the Christians and the Sarazens. In Europe, between the Emperour and the Vandals. The King of Norway, with a thousand Ships invaded England; He cruelly wasted the Land, murdering above a thousand of the Clergy, but was in Battle overcome by the King of England, and slain. In the latter end of the year William the Duke of Normandy commonly though improperly called the Conqueror) came into England, there was a bloody battle fought between him & Harold, then King England, wherein Harold was slain, after which the Land became Subject to the Normans. Also,

Spondanus, Calvissus, s. Alstedius.

great Drought, Plague, and Famine attend
these Blazing Stars.

A.D. 1071. An Oriental Comet appeared
the Morning for twenty five dayes. (*i*) The strea
long and flaming. Great Seditions and Commi
tions in Holland followed. Spain flamed wi
War, the three Sons of Ferdinand striving
Dominion, until *Sanctius* overcame his two Br
thren but was himselfe the next year treacherously
slain and his Brother *Alonsus* was brought
of a Monastery to wear a Crown. The *Saxons*
rebelled. Great Contentions arose between the
Emperour and the Pope, until at last the Pope
caused the imperial Majesty to ly down under his
feet. *Diogenes* (the Emperour of the East) had
wars with the Turks. His Army was betay
by his Son in Law *Andronicus*, so was he taken
the Turks, who after they had treated him with
great civility, gave him his liberty again
but *Andronicus* made a Prisoner of him
and caused his eyes to be put out, not usin
any Medicines for his healing, so that worms bre
in his eye holes, whereby he died miserably.

The latter end of this, and the beginning
the next Century, was famous for the appearan
of Comets with an unwonted frequency. Fe
good (*ii*) Historians relate concerning *A.D. 109*
96, 97, 98, 99, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 110
1109, 1110, 1113. that a Blazing Star was see
t *Prætorius, Alstedius.* u *Ques. vide citatos apud Hey*
Ham in Cometographia. L. 12.

every one of these years. It would fill a volume to speak particularly and fully concerning the miseries of these doleful times. In Syria a sad hapned, whereby innumerable thousands were drowned. Famine, and the Plague raged throughout almost the whole Earth. In (w) Germany the Pope stirred up the *Saxons* against their wretched Emperour *Henry V.* There were no less than five bloody engagements, wherein the lives of many famous Princes were lost, and Rivers of Blood were spilt upon the ground. But most remarkable and great concern attending these iterated blazing Stars, was the *Holy War* (as it iseth to be called) which lasted for many years, and proved most unhappy to the whole Christian world.

A.D. 1132. A Comet of horrendous magnitude appeared in the Moneth of October. (x) The *Swedes* and *Danes* revolt from their Emperour which caused great troubles and commotions in those Countries. The Earl of *Holland* falling upon *Frisia* made woful desolations there. *Civitatem* was burnt down to the ground. There were also great Commotions in *Sicily* this year.

A.D. 1145. A Comet appeared continuing a Moneth, being of a bright and fiery colour. Which was attended with great troubles between the *Armenians* and the *Turks*. In *Hassia* Alsted ubi supra; x Hist. Eccles. Cent. L.2.C. 12. Buns. y Eckstormius. Paris Hist. Angl. P.77. Calvisius

the Nobles rebelled. *Saxony* flamed with war. *Poland* the King and his Brethren fell out, which troubles issued in that unhappy Princes being forced to fly out of his own Countrey, and die exile. It was in this year, that a tumult hapned in *Rome*, some body (not known who) threw a stone, which hit the Pope (*Lucius II.*) by which blow that Blazing Star died. The next year, the new Pope was driven from his Seat by the tumultuous Romans. On the twenty second *May* there was an extream Frost, so that both Vines and Trees were killed by it.

A.D. 1165. There appeared two Blazing Stars at the same time. (z) The one in the South and the other in the North. Remarkable even this year were the death of *Malcom* the King of *Scotland*. Troubles and great Commotions both in the upper and in the lower *Germany*. The Sulten of *Egypt* was murdered, which caused great Commotions in those parts of the World. (a) In *Sicily* there was an unexpected inundation of waters for three dayes together, so as that twelve thousand Souls perished in that flood. The next year was attended with great troubles in *Spain*, and in *Hungaria*. Also *Bavaria*, and *Suevia* were miserably wasted. Presently after the appearance of these Blazing Stars (the ver-

z *Hector Boethius, Hist. Scot. Lib. 13, Fol. 21*
gerius. a *Calvisius.*

ext year as some Hystorians (b) relate) the Pa-
st fell upon the poor Waldenses with bloody fury
as that, ere this Persecution ended, in France a-
ne they barbarously slew no less then ten hun-
ed thousand Souls. It was now manifest
at the Pope (successively taken) is the Anti-
rist ; so that Daniel's numbers (mentioned,
chap. 12. Ver. 11, 12, seem then to be expired.

CHAP. VII.

further Account of Comets, appearing from the
Year of our Lord 1200. unto the Year 1500.
with the most observable Events attending them.

A D. 1200. A Comet appeared in 15 of
Scorpio. Its motion was contrary to the
order of the signs in the Zodiack. (c) It was of
obtund figure, and in magnitude three times
greater then the morning Star, giving as much
light as a fourth part of the Moon useth to do.
This year was attended with Commotions in Al-
la, and almost all the upper Germany. There
were also great mutations amongst the Vascons,
whose Kingdome was swallowed up and divided
betwix the Kings of Castell and Arragon. Philip the

b Vide Mede de numeris Danielis. P. 44. c Cardanus
Italy Ben Rodoan. Calvisius.

King of France was excommunicated by the Pope. He at first made light of the Popes Bull, ejected the Bishops who adhered to the Popes interdict. But the next year, being afraid lest the Pope should cause tumults and miseries in his Kingdom, he complied with him. The Bohemians and Thuringians had bloody Contests the next Year.

A.D. 1211. A Comet was seen in the Month of May, near to the Arctick Pole, continuing in the space of 47 dayes, in the evening the pointe eastward, and in the morning westward. (a) Soon after which the Tartars (who were before an unknown Nation) made a doleful irruption upon Poland. The Russians coming in their succour, were cut off by a lamentable slaughter. There were Wars between the Turks and the Moors. The Sarazens betaking themselves to their ships were vast multitudes of them drowned. Two hundred thousand of them were slain. The Popes Thunderbolt set the Empire on fire, and so it did England, where also there was great trouble by reason of a Welsh rebellion. Moreover, about this time the Albigenses were again cruelly persecuted and slaughtered by the bloody Papists.

A.D. 1214. (or as others 1215.) (e) In

^d Michov. Hist. Polon. Funccius. ^e Histor Ecc. Cent. 13. Cap. 13. Boethius, Calvisius.

Mon.

moneth of March a terrible Blazing Star was seen, both preceding and following the Sun every day, which caused many in those dayes to think that there were two Comets at the same time. This was attended with a Persecution in Germany; in Starsborongh, eighty persons were for their Religion burnt to death by the Papists. A general Council sat at Rome wherein were 412 Bishops and more then a thousand of inferiour Clergy-men. Whatever the Blazing Star in the sky had, so many Blazing stars being in Conjunction at Rome, must needs have a malignant influence upon the World. The times in England were now most doleful by reason of King John his ill management of affairs. His tyranny caused the Lords to take up Arms, to be avenged on whom, King John, Acheronta movebat, moved the Pope to appear on his side, who immediately sets his Bull a roaring; The English Lords affrighted with the bellowing of the Pope's Excommunication, request the King of France to come in to their Assistance, so that the Land became a stage of Rapine, bleeding under the devouring miseries which must needs follow, when two merciless Armies were in its bowels. + Several things accounted disastrous hapned. i. Hugh de Bomes coming to aid King John with threescore thousand men out of Britain, and Flanders, were all drown-

+ See Sr. Richard Bakers Chronicle.

ed in the Sea. 2. Coming to *Walpool* in *Norfolk*, he was careful to obtain a guide to himself, with some few, that he might go over the Fords where it was passable, but took no care of the multitude which followed him; so that they all perished in the water, which disaster filled King *John* with much anguish of mind, that he fell sick and died. Yet some write that he was poysoned by a Monk, the year after the Blazing Star last mentioned was seen. The King of *Scotland* died. The Spaniards slew two hundred thousand Moors.

A.D. 1217. A Southern Comet appeared in the latter end of this year, a little after Sun set. (f) It gradually declined Westward. In form being like to a Broom, reaching almost to the midst of the sky. Remarkable Events which followed were such as these. Wars between *England* and *France*, the *French* being notably worsted. The Emperour *Otha* died. The King of *Castill* as he was playing at Ball, a Tile hapned to fall upon his head, whereby he was killed. The *Sarazens* destroyed all the Christians in *Jerusalem*. The next year, there was a dreadful inundation, so as that all *Frisia* was overwhelmed therewith, and no less then an hundred thousand souls perished in the waters.

A.D. 1223. A terrible Comet appeared,

f Hist. Eccles. ubi supra. Calvisius.

(g) Presently after which the French King died, the King of Denmark was treacherously surprised by Suerinus. A great Commotion hapned in Poland by reason of Henricus Barbatus his rebellion. The Emperour Frederick being provoked by the Pope, marched with an Army into Italy, and had probably driven the Pope out of Rome, had not John the King of Jerusalem interposed and reconciled the difference. Trythemiſus aith, that this year there was a general Murrain mongſt Cattle, so that a third part of them ied.

A.D. 1240. A Comet (h) was obſerved near the Pole, pointing South-east. It was ſeen in February, and continued ſix Moneths. (i) Writers ſpeak of another Blazing Star: appearing the next year for thirty dayes together in Januarij, of a diresful Alſpeſt. Remarkable Events were, the King of Denmark died. The Tartars miserably wasted Russia. They came over the Ice into Poland, and got the victory over an Army that was raifed to oppofe them. From whence they went to Cracovia; and burned down all before them. Also in Silesia and Bohemia they cauſed great desolations. The Empire was put into a ſtrange hurly burly. For the Emperour ad no leſs then ſeven Armies to defend himſelf. The Pope and He were at daggers drawing; the
g Paris Hist. Engl. p. 305. Nauclerus. h Albertus Agnus Meteoreol. L.1. Tract.3. C.5. Paris ubi ſupra P. 6. i Polyder, Virgil, Lycothenes, & alii. Pope

Pope resolving to call a Council of such as like him best, whether the Emperour would or no. He (i.e.) the Emperour surprized the Bishop Navy as they were transporting themselves to the Council, sunk three of their Ships. took twenty of them, and the Bishops in them became his Prisoners. The Pope immediately died with grief and vexation. Another remarkable thing was that a great Mountain in Burgundy was by a Earth quake removed, whereby five thousand Country People, living in the Villages were overwhelmed, and killed in a moment.

A.D. 1254. A Comet (k) of immense magnitude appeared for several Moneths together. There followed terrible and prodigious Tempests. Wars between the Genevereses and the Venetians. The cross-bearing Army took such a course to convert the Russians to the Faith, as was never taught them by Christ or his Apostles, for with fire and sword they fell upon them, and made them promise that they would be Christians. The Emperour and the Pope being at variance, the Emperour died suddenly, not without suspicion of Poyson by the Popes procurement. The Pope himself died within a year. The new Pope made a great disturbance in Italy, but his Army was shamefully overcome. A Rebellion brake forth in Frisia. There were great troubles and commotions in Saxony.

k Rockenbachius, Alstedius, & alii.

A.D.

A.D. 1264. A mighty Comet was seen this year, in the sign of *Taurus*, continuing for three Moneths, viz. from *July* to *October* 7. Its motion was retrograde. For at first it appeared before the Morning Star, but at last after it. (¹) The stream was long and broad, appearing before the body of the Star was seen. When that came above the Horizon, it extended it self Westward over the one half of the Heavens. It was observed by the Writers living in that age, that that Blazing Star disappeared the very night in which the Pope died. Other Remarkables attending this Comet were these; The Earl of *Angiers* did at the Popes instigation remove out of *France*, and fell upon *Sicily*, causing the King there to be treacherously killed. *Armenia* was all in a flame, by means of *Banducar* (the King of *Babylon*) his coming upon them. *Hetruria* was in an uproar. *Spain* was set upon by the *Sarazens*, who slew and were slain in great multitudes. *England* blazed with Civil Wars. It would make this Discourse too voluminous, if we should expatiate particularly upon the strange and amazing revolutions which hapned there, as well as in other parts of the World about this time.

¹ *Palæologus*, *Palmerius*, & *alii*. *Wolfsius habet annum* 1263. *Appendix ad Hist. Matth. Paris P. 967. habet annum* 1265. *Hoc anno (ait) apparuit Cometæ notabilis*; *ut nullus tunc vivens, viderit talem*. *Zuinger Vol. 5. Lib. 4. Page 1423. Calvisius.*

A D. 1268. An horrendous Blazing Star (*m*) was seen, which was attended with these *Remarkables*. The *Sultan* of *Egypt* fell upon *Antioch*, slew no less then seventeen thousand Christians there, and made an hundred thousand of them Captives. *Mondavus* the King of *Portugal* renounced his Christianity, and became a professed Infidel, and raised a cruel Persecution against the Christians. In *Scotland* there were fearful destructions made by horrible winds, which *Cardan* thinks were the special evils portended by this Comet.

Historians (*n*) have noted that in the latter end of this and the beginning of the next Century, Blazing Stars (some of them of an horrendous magnitude and direful aspect) appeared every year, for seven or eight years together, viz. A.D. 1298, 99. 1300, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. in the last of which years the destroying Angel was let loose upon the World, the Plague raging and killing in all Countries and Nations. But the great and stupendous providence attending these *Heralds of Heaven*, whereby the World was thus loudly and frequently Alarmed, was the rising of the *Turkish Power* united in and under the *Ottomanical Family*: So that in those dayes the second *Apocalyptical Wo* (and it was a Wo indeed to the

*in Cardanus, Ricciolus. n Quos citat Hevelius in libro
supra laudato. Allstedius.*

Ch iſtians

Christian World) began to be poured forth. The huge and horrid Armies of the Turks, whereby Christendome (as it is called) hath been miserably wasted, and the Eastern Churches made most desolate, are set forth (*o*) in the *Revelation*, by that of an Army of Horsemen, consisting of two hundred thousand thousand, which are prepared to kill the third part of men, *Rev. 9.15, 16.* Now was the time when this Army being furnished with Instruments of death, out of whose mouths issueth fire and smoak and Brimstone, began to do their woful Execution.

A.D. 1313. A great Northern (*p*) Comet appeared fourteen dayes, having its motion towards the South. The next year a (*q*) Comet was seen blazing in *Virgo* for six Moneths together. And in the (*r*) year after that, another Blazing Star appeared in *December*. *Ihad. Hægemon* (*s*) writes that the year 1315. was attended with two Comets, the one of which was in the *Arctic Circle*, the other near unto *Mars*, and in the same sphere with that Planet. Remarkable Events which attended these Blazing Stars, were, the Emperour being poysoned by a wicked Monk, a Civil War broke out in *Germany* about a successor to the Crown, which continued for eight

o Mede in locum. *p Lycosthenes, Funcius & Buntingus habent annum 1312.* *q Wolnius, Camerarius, & alii.* *r Lævater, Herlicius.* *s Insua dialexij de nova stella, P. 56.*
years

years together, to the unspeakable misery of the Countries subject to the Emperour. It raine all the Summer (^t) long, a terrible Famine and Plague followed, so that a third part of all creatures living perished. In Portugal and the Countries thereabouts, the Famine lasted for three years. In some places men were killed that others might eat them. In the City of Erford eight thousand persons died with hunger. The Scots went with a Fleet into Ireland, wasting the Countrey with fire and sword. A dismal blow was given to England; For King Edward II. raised an Army consisting of an hundred thousand to fight the Scots, who not having half that number in their Army, by a Stratagem routed the English Army, killing an Earl, several Lords, seven hundred Knights and Esquires, and about fifty thousand common Souldiers.

A.D. 1337. Two Comets were seen this year at the same time (^u) one of which appeared in the sign Taurus, for the space of four Moneths, and before that was gone, another was seen, which continued blazing with the former, for three Moneths. (^w) It was not a Crinite but a Barbare Star. It was first seen in the feet of Pegasus, the Coma (or Beard) extending it self very broad

^t Funccius, Calvius, in lateat nullum tempus famis ecce CVCVLLVM. ^u Lavater, Funccius, Calvius Lycosthenes. ^w Niceph. Greg. *Hist. Rom.* L.II.

and pointing towards the East. Observable consequents whereof, were, the death of the King of Sicily. In the East there were great stirrs about a Successour to the Imperial Crown. Wars between the Turks and Thracians, who were miserably slain, and thirty thousand carried into captivity at once. In some places a prodigious cold Winter, so as that the Cross bearing Army had their Noses and Fingers frozen. A formidable Army of Locusts devoured Bohemia, Austria, and other Countries: The breadth of which Army was twenty eight miles, the length of it could not be sound: when they flew they darkened the Air, as if the Heavens had been covered with a cloud.

A.D. 1340. A Comet in form like a Sword, appeared in the Moneth of March, near unto Spica Virginis,^{x)} moving forward every day one Degree, until it came to the sign Leo, and there it vanished. This year Andronicus the Emperour died. A terrible Plague raged in Italy; War between England and France, where in the French were egregiously worsted, their Navy burnt and broken by the English. The next year the Turks caused Poland, Moravia, Hungaria, to become miserable stages of Rapine, Blood, and Fire. An Earth-quake in Burgundy, removed two Mountains which fell upon the People therabout. A

^{x)} Lavater, Palmerius, Prætorius, Eckstormius.

pro-

prodigious Tempest and destructive Flood haned in other parts.

A.D. 1347. In the Moneth of *August*, a Comet appeared in *Taurus*, continuing sixty daye
(y) Many things worthy of remark hapned th year. For the *Scots* invading *England* with a Army, fifteen thousand of them were slain by the *English*, and their King taken Prisoner. Ther was a general rising of the People in *Aragon*. The Emperour as he was hunting a Bear fell off his Horse and quickly died. The King of *Sicily* was strangled by his Queen in his sleep. A sweepin Plague lasting for the space of six years, wer through the World. It came out of *Asia* into *Europe* this year, There died in the City of *Lebeck* ninety thousand, in *Avinion* an innumerabl multitude; In *England* nine parts of ten die throughout the Land. Above fifty seven thousand in the City of *Norwich*. So fearful was this Besome of Destruction, as that a third part o Mankind was not left alive upon the face of the Earth. *Alstedius** (a grave and learned Author Writs, that this Plague swept away no less then a Million, two hundred and forty four thousand four hundred & forty four *Monks*. which (thought strange) yet considering that the World did ther swarm with *Monks* is not impossible to be true.

y *Lavater*; *Ricciolus*. *Calvisius*. n *Chronol*. Chap. 25. P. 174.

A.D.

A.D. 1351. A (z.) Northern Comet appeared in December. Some (a) Authors speak of Blazing Stars seen in the two following years also. These Prodigies were attended with fearful Tempests, Drought, Famine, and Plague, especially in Italy. Wars in Germany, and a devouring Army of Locusts in Asia, and in Africa. Fearful burnings and desolations in many places, occasioned by lightning.

A.D. 1362. A fearful Comet appeared (b) in the Evening on the eleventh of March, in the sign *quarius*, being ninety Degrees in length, pointing Eastward, and continuing for the space of three Moneths. Things which followed, were, the Pope and the King of France both died within year. Wars and great troubles in many places, between the King of Castel, and of Arragon; the Earl of Holland, and the Gildrians, the King of Cyprus and the Sarazens. In Poland a Famine prevailed, and a violent Plague throughout all Britain.

A.D. 1375. A Comet appeared (c) Soon after which the Emperovr Charles the IV. died. Great tumults in Cracovia; a War in Thuringia lasting two years. Wickliff's Doctrine was con-

^z Lavater, Lycosthenes. ^a Schofferus, Eckstormius, Eckstromias, Hevelius, ex Hist. Pol. Praetorius, & Alstedus habent ann. 1363. ^c Lycosthenes, Rockenbaile, 1375. 1376. 1377. 1378. 1379. 1380.

damned in *England*. Seventeen Towns in *Flanders* were drowned. The *French* took the Isle of *Wight*, burn *Hastings*, &c. Prince *Edward* died.

A.D. 1380. (which year was famous for the first invention of *Guns*) A Comet (*d*) appeare in *Aquarius*, continuing three Moneths. An (*e*) another (or the same) appeared again within two years, Rematkable Events, were, a terrible Plague. The death of the King of *Frank* and of the King of *Hungaria*. Locusts in *Germany*. A prodigious Rebellion hapned in *England*. The Kings Collector behaving himself rudely, was knocked in head by one whom he had affronted and enraged, whereupon no less then a hundred thousand of the rabble rout gathered together, and siezed upon the Tower of *London* in which was the King and Queen, and caused the Lord Chancellour, Lord Treasurer, Lord Chie Justice, and others to be barbarously slain.

A.D. 1394. A blazing Star in form (*f*) like a spit (which Astronomers are wont to look upon as most unhappily ominous) with the head downward, and the Coma or Blaze pointing upwards was seen in the West, moving Northward. This year the Pope died, and the next year the Duke of *Austria*. The King of *Arragon* as he was

d Zockenbachius, Alstedius. *e* Idem, Bonfinius, Eckimius. *f* Lavater, Lycosthenes.

Hunting

Concerning Comets.

§§

unting, beheld a VVolf (or rather a Devil in the same likeness) of a prodigious magnitude, the sight whereof he was frighted to death. About that time, all the Jews in Germany were either killed or banished. Wickliff's Doctrine began to enlighten Germany. Troubles arose between the Germans and the Italians. The (g) Turks being informed that the Christians were at great variance amongst themselves, came with an army of two hundred thousand, under Bajazet, and obtained a fatal and remarkable Victory over the Europeans. About this time the Duke of Lancaster made such an interest in England, as to cause King Richard to be deposed from his throne, and after he had resigned the Crown, to be privately murdered by bloody Villains:

A.D. 1400. In the (h) Spring time a Comet was seen. But the next (i) year in February, the whole VWorld was amazed with the sight of a very and flaming Comet in form like a Lamp. whose Blaze was four Cubits in length. The light it was so great, as that it obscured the Stars, and overcame the darkness of the night as long as was above the Horizon. It continued until the sun entered into Libra. The consequents of thisazing Star, were no less prodigious, than the comet that appeared. (k) In divers places the

¶ Cluverus. ¶ Herlicius, Praetorius, &c. § Historia
Constantina. ¶ Alsted,

Plague.

Plague raged, and other grievous Diseases before that time unheard of. Great Rivers were dry up. It would make this Discourse too voluminous, particularly to enumerate all the fatal and memorable accidents which hapned by reason of WVars in many Countries. Our English (¹) Chronologers, say, that this Blazing Star was portentous of that effusion of Blood in *Wales* and *Northumberland*, which followed quickly after. very prodigious thing hapned the same year in *Danbury* in *Essex*; the Devil in the shape of *Grey Friar*, entring the Church, put the People into a lamentable fright, and in the same hour with a Tempest of Whirlwind and Thunder, the top of the Steple was broken down, and half the Chancel scattered abroad. In *Bohemia*, John Hus standing up in defence of *Wickliff's* Doctrine, small Commotions were occasioned thereby. But that which most amazed the World, was, *Tamerlaine* came out of *Asia*, with an huge Host. He overcame the Turkish Emperour, and used him like a slave. He called himself the *Anger of God, and master of the Earth*; and indeed he made the Earth to swim in blood.

A.D. 1432. A total (^m) Solar Eclipse was attended with a small Comet. The next year another great Comet of a red and fiery aspect, was seen. (ⁿ) It continued blazing all night long.

Iv. Sr. R. Bakers Chron. & Chr. Polon. n Funccir Alstedius.

or was it extinct for a quarter of a year together. Remarkable Events, were, a Dearth of six years continuance. (o) An Inundation throughout all *Germany*, in *Thuringia* 40 Villages perished that Flood, also several Towns in *Bohemia*. In the Spring time there was a great Snow continuing for 40 dayes together, so that Beasts & Birds thrifhed in great multitudes. Hunger brought the wild Beasts upon the Towns, either to kill or be killed. A flame of War was kindled between the Duke of *Saxony* and the Prince of *Brandenburg*. *France* was sorely distressed. The King of *Portugal* and the King of *Poland* died. The Duke of *Vezice*, was beheaded. The Pope would like to have been stoned to death, being forced to disguise himself, and so to flee out of Rome.

A.D. 1419. (p) A Comet appeared. This year *Albert* the Emperour died. Great commotions were in the Empire by reason of the *Turks*; and Wars between the *English* and the *French*. The Marshal of *France* was burnt for Sorcery. The King of *Bohemia* died. A bloody Rebellion broke forth in *Spain*. The Council at *Basil* deposed the Pope, and chose a new one, which caused a notable Schisme amongst the worshippers of the Beast, some adhering to the old Pope, and others to the new one. The next year was famous

for *Calvissius*, *p Funccius*, *Camerarius*, &c.

for the first Invention of the Art of PRINTING
by John Gutenber^g a Goldsmith in Strasburg:

A.D. 1444. About midsummer (q) a Blazing Star was seen in Leo. The King of Hungaria with a great multitude of Christians was slain in Battle with the Turks. The King of France and the Helvetians fall out. Turmuls hapned in England. Amurathes the Turkish Emperour being distressed by the King of Hungaria, (who had the perswasion of the Cardinal Julianus, violated his Covenant with Amurathas) prayed to God for help, vowing that if God would give him the victory, he would betake himself to a Monaster. Which after the Victory he accordingly performed, and resigned his Crown to another, whereupon great commotions in the Turkish Empire, and the burning of Adrianople was occasioned. The next year, a terrible inundation of waters hapned in the Netherlands, so as that above an hundred thousand persons lost their lives in that flood, besides an infinite multitude of Cattle.

A.D. 1450. A Comet was seen this Summer appearing a little after Sun-set, in form like a Sword, moving from the West towards the East (r) The Moon being at the full, this Comet reported to cause it to suffer an Eclipse, (I do not remember that I have read the like of any Comet whence the Turks were not a little astonished,

q Prætorius, Rockenbachius, r Ricciolus ex Franc. Hisp. L. 5. C. 24.

he beholding of it. Remarkable events were, The Turkish Emperour died. The Eastern parts flamed with War. Constantiople was taken by the Infidels. The Empire was embroyled with civil Discords. Also Jack Cade his mad Rebellion in England hapned in this year, when divers nobles of the Land were murthered. The French taking advantage from the troubles in England seize upon all the English Territories here, leaving nothing to the English but Calice. This year Naples was shaken with an Earth quake, and thirty thousand persons were destroyed by that Earthquake, in places adjacent.

A.D. 1456. A Comet appeared in *Cancer*, and another in *Leo*, extending it self over two of the Coelestial Signs (i.e. 60 degrees.) This Blazing Star was attended with a direful Earthquake in *Italy*, by means whereof thirty thousand persons lost their lives, also a great Plague. Bloody Wars between the *Turk* and the *Hungarians*. That brave Prince of *Transilvania*, *Hunyades*, after he had destroyed two hundred of the Turks ships, and in one Battle slain forty thousand of them, died. The young King of *Hungary*, in the day appointed for his Marriage, died suddenly. One of *Hunyades* his Sons being then a Prisoner, and expecting Sentence of death, was

Alsted Chronol. Cap. 25. s Funccius, Calvisius, &c.
lxxii habent annum, 1457.

set at liberty, and chosen King, so that there was
a sudden and stupendous alteration of affairs.
Scanderbeg's Wars and the great Commotion
caused thereby, were about this time.

A.D. 1460. A notable Comet was seen. (t) The King of France, and the King of Scotland died. Cracovia was laid waste with Fire and Sword. In England the Duke of York aspiring to the Throne, headed an Army, designing to depose the King, but was himself slain. His Son the Earl of March, put in for the Crown, between whom and King Henry VI. there was this year the bloodiest Battel fought that ever was known in England. No less then thirty seven thousand Englishmen were slain in one day. The Earl gained the Crown, and the King was kept Prisoner in the Tower. A Civil War began in France.

A.D. 1470. A marvellous Comet appeared this year. That great Mathematician *Regiomontanus* (whom (u) Peter Ramus calls the glory of Germany) was accurate in observing that Prodigy, in all its motions, from whom *Mizaldus* hath given an exact description of it. The body of the Star, did at first seem small, but on a sudden increased to a wondrous magnitude, and then again decreased. Sometimes of a white, otherwhiles of a flame like aspect. The Blaze (w) was at the

t *Prætorius, Rockenbachius, Funcius.* u *In Schœlzerum,* w *In Cometogr. Lib. 1. Cap. ult.*

first appearance, and a little before it disappeared short, but after it had been seen forty dayes, the length of it was above fifty degrees. Its duration was the space of eighty dayes. At first it could be seen only in the morning, at last only in the evening, in the middle of its duration it might be seen all the night long. Its motion (which was alwayes retrograde) at its beginning and ending was slow, but in the midle of its circuit was swift, even so as to dispatch 40 degrees in one natural day. It passed from *Virgo* through *Bootes*, the *Dragon*, *Ursa minor*, the feet of *Cepheus*, breast of *Cassiopea*, *Andromeda*, *Pisces*, *Serpentarius*, until it came to the *Whale*, where by reason of *Occasus Heliacus*, it disappeared. The Blaze did continually point at the *Gemini*. In the same night presently after Sun set it would point to the East, near midnight to the South, after midnight to the West, a little before Sun rise to the North. As for Events, There followed a very great Drought of three years continuance; so that in *Hungaria*, the great River *Danaw* (which is the greatest River in Europe) might be waded over; such horrible winds in *Germany* as blew down many Houses. A terrible Plague, in which many were deserted of their Relations, that so they might escape with their own lives. The cruel Wars of the Duke of *Burgundy*, which continued until his death, Also Wars between the *Hungarians* and the *Polanders*, and in the East between the

the Persians and the Turks. This year, the King of England, Henry VI. was Murdered by the bloody hands of the Duke of Gloucester.

A.D. 1477. A Cærulean dark coloured Comet was seen. (x) The Emperour Charles V. used to say that that Blazing Star was portentous of his Grandfathers Death, who fell amongst others that were slain in that Battle fought before Nancy this year. It was a fatal year to many other Princes. A direful Plague followed, and such heat and drought, as that great Rivers were dried up; and not only Fruit Trees were destroyed but whole Forrests were set on fire by the scorching heat of the Sun. A terrible Plague followed.

A.D. 1491. A Comet appeared in the evening (y) a little after Sun-set. The Star small but the Stream long, extending it self Eastward in direct opposition to the body of the Sun. Immediately after which the Turks overcame Dalmatia, and Slavonia. There was also a great Mortality both amongst Men and Cattle. The Pope and the King of Poland died this year. The King of Portugal was killed by a fall from his Horse. The next year the new World (as it useth to be called) viz. that part of the World which now bears the Name of America was discovered by Christopher Columbus.

x Eberus, Buntingus, Ecksternius, &c. Alstedius y Minaldus, Prætorius ex Walteri Observacionibus, Funccius.

CHAP. VIII.

The History of Comets which have been Observed
from the Year 1500. to 1600. with the Events.

AD. 1500. In the Moneth of April, a Comet (a) was observed in the sign of Capricorn, of a fearful magnitude, appearing for above a quarter of a year, and was seen in the day time as well as in the night. And another (b) the same year in January, seen also in the Day, for above a week together. Four years after, there hapned a Conjunction of the Superior Planets, which was attended with a notable Blazing Star almost as light as the Moon, so that people could see to Travel by the light of it. The next year another Comet was seen in April continuing two dayes. And again in August, under Coma Berenices, and near Charles Wain. Remarkable Events attending these Comets were, the death of the Arch Duke of Austria, and of the King of Spain, and of the King of Bohemia, and of the Queen in England. Plague, Famine, and sore Drought lasting from January to November, in some Countries. Prodigious Tempests and Inundations in other places. The Tartars wasted

a Rockenbachius, Funccius, Mizaldus b Lavater, Hevelius, Alstedius.

Poland, the Muscovites Lithuania. The Bavric War also War between the Germans, the Venetians, and French. The Spaniards began the most bloody Butcheries amongst the Indians. The Islands of Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, were exceeding populous, but the cruel Spaniards made them desolate. A Writer of their own confesseth that in a few years time, they killed more than ten hundred thousand Natives, fourteen times told.

A.D. 1513. A Comet appeared in Cancer, (c) continuing from December to the latter end of January. The colour various, the stream long, seen all night. This year that great Blazing Star which had put the whole Christian World into a flame, died, viz. Pope Julius II. The King of Scotland with an Army of sixty thousand invaded England, but he was slain in battle, and (besides three Bishops, twelve Earls, seventeen Lords) many thousands with him. The King of Denmark died. Insurrections in many places in Germany followed. The next year the Popes Legate made a Proclamation in Hungaria, that whatsoever would go out against the Turks should have Indulgences granted them, whereupon a great rabble gathered together, but instead of warring against the Turks, they fell upon their own Countrey,

[¶] Ricciolus ex Petro Surdo, Zanch. de operibus Dei. L.3.
C.2. P.335.

men

men, slew seventy thousand of them, amongst which were four hundred of the Nobles. The Turks and Christians had a bloody engagement; n hundred thousand of the Turks best Souldiers were cut off in one day. About this time Armenia was conquered by Setimus, and annexed to the Ottoman Dominions, v. Ricant of the present state of the Armenian Church, P. 389.

A.D. 1516. A Comet (d) of a Lunar nature, was seen for some dayes. The King of Spain died. The next year Luther began to declare against indulgences. Soon after which great Commotions and mutations followed throughout all Antichristendome. † Now did the merciless Spaniards fall upon the Indians inhabiting the Terra firma, where they murdered above four Millions of Souls. The Salden of Egypt was miserably surdered, and the Mamalucks power (that had kept Egypt under three hundred years) swallowed up by the Turks.

A.D. 1523. And in the next year also, a Comet appeared. (e) A fearful Inundation followed, & earth-quakes. The Sedition of the Rusicks in Germany, in which sixty thousand lives were lost. The King of France was taken Prisoner by

d Mizallus, P. Jovius. † v. Purchase Pilgrim, Part, 4. L. P. 1577. e Præterius, Fockenbachius, Junctinus, Cleromius,

Charles

Charles V. The Duke of *Saxony* died. In *England*, after a great Rain, there followed such an extreme Frost, as that many lost their nails, and some died with cold.

A.D. 1527. On the eleventh day of *August* a most terrifying (f) Comet was seen, of an immense longitude, and bloody colour. The form of it, was like a mans arm holding an huge Sword in his hand with which he was ready to strike. Such terrore and horrour surprized the Spectators of this Prodigy, as that some died away with dread & amazement. (g) The next year another Comet was seen in *Pisces*, Jan. 18. There followed a great Dearth in *England* by reason of extremity of Rain in Seed time; also a Famine in *Venice*, and in several other places, whereby many perished. And that woful Disease known by the name of the *English Sweat*, infected all places of the Realm, whereby whole miriads were sent to the Grave. The Duke of *Barbon* took *Rome*, and sacked it. The *Turks* wasted *Hungaria*. In some places, Armies of *Locusts* devoured the fruits of the Earth.

A.D. 1530. A (h) Comet was observed. And again the next year in *August* and *September*, having its motion from the beginning of *Leo* unto *Libra*, appearing first in the Morning before Sun-

f VVolfius, Cent. 16. P.293. Lavater, Herlicius, Gemma. g Ricciolus. h Mizaldus, Eckstormius, &c.

rise, afterwards in the evening. Again, (i) the year following from September 25. to October 20. its motion being from *Virgo* to *Scorpio*, and at first southern, but at last a northern Latitude. The body of the Star was three times as big as the planet *Jupiter*; the stream exceeding long, pointing to the South-west. The next year in June, in *Gemini*; the Star somewhat greater than *Jupiter*, the figure like a long sword. As for the more remarkable Events, attending those Blazing Stars, thus annually appearing, they were such as these: An Earthquake in *Portugal*; above a thousand houses were thrown down thereby. A sore Famine in some Countries. A great Flood or Inundation of Waters in the *Netherlands*, viz. in *Holland*, *Friesland*, and *Zeland* (no less than four hundred and four Parishes were drowned;) yearly in *Poland*: Also at *Rome* the River *Tyber* overflowed its Banks. Now did the famous Confession of *Augsburg* come forth, and the name of Protestant was first known. That Confession was put into the form of a Covenant, subscribed by several of the Electoral Princes, who professed they would abide by the Truth, so did the opposers Popery come to bear the name of Protestants. The World blazed and flamed out with Wars every where. In the East the *Persians* and *Turks* were at variance. Also the *Turks* made

Appianus. Confessio Augustana.

an irruption upon Christendome. Hungaria was full of Troubles. In Helvetia there was an unhappy War, wherein Zwinglius (that Star of the first magnitude) lost his life. In Westphalia, the Munsterian Anabaptists brought all to confusion. In Denmark, the Popish party designing to suppress the Protestants, involved that Kingdome in War and Blood. In Africa, the Kingdome of Tunis was put into a flame by Barbarossa. Great mutations hapned in England which filled the World with discourse and wonderment, for King Henry VIII. cast off the Popes Supremacy, and turned the Monks and Friers out of doors, disposing of the Church-lands to whom he pleased. By all which things it appears, that the Blazing Stars mentioned were not seen for nothing.

A.D. 1538. A Comet appeared in January, continuing three weeks. It was seen in the evening (in the sign Pisces) the Blaze 30 degrees in Longitude. The next year a great Comet appeared in Leo, from May 6, to 17. Many things worthy of Remark hapned in this year. Amongst the Napolitans, the Sea was dried up eight miles; and out of that place there was most horrendous irruption of fiery flames, and ashes, which falling upon the People living theretabouts, they were miserably destroyed. A terrible Conflagration hapned in Constantinople con-

¶ Jacobus Eincelius. ¶ Appianus. Hallerus.
tinuin

nuing several dayes. A fiery Summer and a
orching Drought in many places. The King of
France came with an Army into Italy. The King
of Spains Navy was overcome by Barbarossa. The
Duke of Saxony died with grief, and his death oc-
caſioned great mutations and miseries in that part
of Germany. The Antinomians headed by an
obſcure and illiterate person (one John Isleb) did
ow first begin to Blaze in Germany. A principal
City in the Countrey of Mexico was almost over-
whelmed by a Deluge of boyling water which
escended from a Vulcano near unto it.

A.D. 1542, A (l) Blazing Star terrible to
ehold, was seen forty dayes. Three years after
that another appeared of a bloody colour. Re-
markable Events, were, a great Drought, in En-
land, the lesser Rivers were clean dried up, much
Cattle died there for lack of Water. In Silisia
and other Countries the Locusts did much harm.
The designed Expedition of the Christians against
the Turks proved unhappy, a great part of the
Christian Army dying by an Epidemical Disease.
The latter of thele Comets was attended with the
rst Session of the Council of Trent; Also at
the Popes Instigation the Waldenses were destroy-
ed for their Religion, and Popish, Barbarous, Un-
paralleld Cruelties exercised towards them, The

¹ Rockenbachius, Eckstormius, Ricciolus ex Fromor de
Senerto habet An. 1543.

next year (viz. A.D. 1546.) Luther died, immediately upon whose death a Cloud of Blood which had been long impending, fell upon Germany, & a fatal War broke out between the Emperour & the Protestant Princes.

A.D. 1556. A Comet in *Libra* was seen from the beginning of *March* to *April 23*. The Colour varied. (m) The body of it shining like half Moon, the stream near its head more compact, but in the end more rare. Its motion from *Virgo* through *Bootes* to the North Pole of the Ecliptick; from thence through *Andromeda* & *Piscis septentrionalis*, where it vanished. In the midst of its appearance the motion was most swift, for it dispatched 15 Degrees every day at first it was retrograde, but afterwards direct. In the space of four dayes it was removed about 70 Degrees Westward, and 30 Degrees Northward. It moved towards the Planet *Saturn*; the nearer it came to him, the slower was its motion (n). Its magnitude at its disappearing in a manner equal to what it was at first. This Comet was attended with the death of many Learned and Worthy Men; and with the fiery part of Queen Mary's Persecution. This year also, the Emperour Charles V. did to the amazement of the World, resign his Crown, and betook himself to

*m Hommelius, Camerarius, Bizaras, Histor. Genuei
Kepler, Cardanus, Galii. n Gemma.*

Monastery. Such an Inundation hapned at *Rome* by the River *Tybers* overflowing, as that a great part of the City was thereby destroyed.

A.D. 1558. A Comet was seen in the Evening under *Coma Berenices*, of a pale colour, continuing about 30 dayes. (o) Also in *May* the next year; and in *December* the year after that. These three years did not pass without such things as were very observable. In *England* there was such a prodigious Tempest as the like (in respect of circumstances) is seldom mentioned in any History. That year also Queen *Mary* died, and famous Queen *Elizabeth* seconded, whereby affairs both in Church and State were strangely altered. The Emperour *Charles V.* said that Comet was sent to give him notice of his approaching Death. And at the sight of it, made this Pentameter, *His ergò indicijs mea fata vocant.* So it hapned, for he died that year, (p) The next year the Pope died, and no less then fifteen Cardinals, also the King of *France*, the King of *Portugal*, the King of *Dinmark*, and many other Princes.

A.D. 1577. This year a notable blazing Star amazed the VWorld for three Moneths together. Those famous Mathematicians *Michael Maestlin*, *Cornelius Gemma*, and *Tycho Brahe*, have written

^o *Thuanus*, Lib. 21. Page 577. *Tycho Epist.* P. 144.
^p *Ricciolus.*

largeiy and learnedly concerning that Comet. It was seen first on the ninth of November, in the beginning of Capricorn, passing through that sign and Aquarius, to the midst of Pisces. The Star was equal to Venus in magnitude, being a compact solid body, and like a little Moon, shining as the purest Silver. The stream differed in colour from the Star, for it was red and fiery, in breadth five Degrees, and in length thirty. Towards the body of the Star, the rayes were more condensed, but the longer they were distended, they appeared to be more scattered and diffused abroad, which argued that the Stream was pro-created by some external light penetrating through the body of the Star; and it was observed to be opposite to the Sun, yet so as that the form of it was bending like a Bow, whose convexity was towards the Zenith, and concavity towards the Horizon. Both Gemma and Tycho found that this Comet was higher then the Moon. According to Tycho's observation, the true Diameter of the Star was 368. Mill. Germ. so that its proportion to the Earth was as 3 to 14: The Longitude of the Comets tail he found to be 96 Semidiameters of the Earth. He concluded it was not in the Airy but in the Eterial VVorld, because it did admit of no sensible Parallax. On November 10. the Parallax was 19 12 which was diminished every day until it came to two minutes, and that was a demonstration that the

Comet

Comet ascended higher and higher. At the first it was distant from the Earth 173 Semidiamiters, but at last 1733. b.e. it ascended as high as the Sun itself. As for Events, the King of Persia died by poison. The great Turk was slain in Battel, and seventy thousand with him. The King of Portugal would needs venture into Mauritania that he might restore Mahomed to the Kingdome which his Uncle Abdelmeleck had detrued him from; in that memorable Battel the King of Portugal was slain, and the greatest part of the Nobility with him. Abdelmeleck though he obtained a victory died that day of an Apoplexy, Mahomed was drowned in the Marshes, so that three Kings lost their lives in one day. This year also Novograde in Muscovia (whose Inhabitants were wont to say that nothing was able to oppose God, unless it were great Novegrade) was taken, the Conquerour carrying away with him as its said) * an 100 VVagons of Gold and silver.

A. D. 1580. A wonderful Comet appeared this year. It was observed first October 2 having no Coma for several dayes, sc. not till October 9. When on a sudden it appeared with a formidable laze. The reason of which Mestlin judgeth to be this. The Sun and the Comet were in opposite signs in the Zodiack, so that at first the Coma

* Mordens Geography rectified, P. 122.

ascending directly upwards could not be perceived by men here below, but as the Star recede from the Suns Diameter, the rayes issuing from thence were seen, which were adverse to the Sun though not in exact Diametrical opposition thereto. Its appearance continued above three Moneths. At first in the Evening at 7 h. by November 14. it was seen both in the Morning and in the Evening, until December 6. when it appeared in the Morning only. It was bigger than a Star of the first magnitude, only of a darker colour, and not moving as the fixed Stars, but as the Planets do. At first retrograde and slow in its progress, afterwards swiftly passing through *Aries*, *Pisces*, *Capricorn*, *Sagittarius*, but toward the end of its appearance, the motion was more remiss, until it became almost stationary, it was as high as the Planet *Mercury*, or *Venus*, viz. 15° S.T. There followed an epidemical Disease, which strangely ran through all Europe. Also great Wars between the Emperour of *Muscovia*, and the *Suevians* and *Polanders*. The States of *Holland* united in renouncing obedience and subjection to the King of *Spain*, and from thence they bear the name of the *United Provinces*. The Christians in *Cyprus* this year rebelling against the *Turks*, were miserably destroyed: (1) So that

• See *Ricart* of the present state of the *Grecian* Churches, P. 94.

fourteen thousand Villages of Christians which
then were in that populous Island, there now re-
main but seven hundred.

A. D. 1585. A strange Star appeared, (q)
rom the 8th of October, to the 5th of November,
in the Sign of *Pisces*, having its motion-direct
through *Aries*, *Taurus*, &c. The magnitude
equal to *Jupiter* but affording an obscure cloudy
kind of light without any *Coma*. It was obser-
ved to be as high as *Saturn*.

The next year (r) the Plague raged in the les-
ser Asia, Austria and Hungaria. Italy and the
few Countries were afflicted with a Famine. In
the Countrey near Constantinople, Armies of Lo-
usts devoured the fruits of the Earth. The
Queen of Scotland being in England was tried for
her life, condemned and beheaded.

A.D. 1590. A Comet appeared from Februa-
ry 23. to March 6. near *Pisces Borealis*. The
blaze very thin and small, and about ten degrees
in length. It was by Tycho observed to be as
high as the Sun.

As for Events, the Pope *Sixtus V.* died, and
his Successour *Urbanus VII.* lived but ten dayes
after he came to the Popedome, *Gregory XIV.* suc-
ceeded him, but lived not a whole year, the next
Pope, viz. *Innocentius IX.* lived but two Moneths;
so that four Popes successively died in little more

q Tyco Braheus, Christoph Rothmanns. r Ricciolus.

then a years time. There was a terrible Earthquake this year in Moravia and Austria, whereby many Houses (especially in Vienna) were destroyed. The next Summer there was a sore Drought. A Shepherd in a place in Holland carelessly throwing some fire upon the ground, by reason of the dry season, the ground took fire, and burnt so that the Heavens seemed to flame, nor could the fire be extinguished, until the Sea water was let in upon it. In Paris thirteen thousand Persons were famished to death this year.

A.D. 1596. July 9. A Comet of Saturnine aspect appeared in *Ursa major*, from whence it hastened to *Coma Berenices*. (r) It passed through *Cancer*, *Leo*, and *Virgo*, and there turning aside, became Stationary. Remarkable Events were; a drought and earthquake in divers places. Then English burnt the Spanish Fleet. The Turks in Battle overcame the *Austrians*. This year many great Personages (s) died in England. Also (t) many famous for Learning in other Countries. Ireland blazed with *Tyr Owens Rebellion*, nor could that Flame be extinguished without the effusion of much English blood. An exundation of the River *Tyber*, drowned 1500 persons in *Rome*, and the City received inestimable detriment thereby.

r Bucholzer, Mæstlinus & alii. s Sr. Richard Bakers Chron. p. 387. t Cluyerius Hist. P. 753.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

The History of Comets appearing in this last Century, with the more remarkable occurrences of Divine Providence which have attended them.

A.D. 1607. September 25. A Comet appeared (n) continuing about forty dayes, making its progress from the foot of *Ursa major*, through *Bootes*, until it came to the hand of *Ophiuchus*, where it began to alter its course. The Star was not exactly round, but seemed to have a woulf face. It appeared bigger then any fixed star. The rayes proceeding from it, were more condense and compacted then useth to be. Because of its *Septentrional Latitude*, it might bee seen both in the evening and in the morning, (and in Germany all the night long) whence the vulgar ignorantly concluded that there were two distinct Comets. As for remarkable occurrents, the Prince of *Transilvania* was poysoned by his Chancellour. The *Hayduques* with the *Turks* made woul havock in *Hungaria*; The Emperour was in reat distress, by reason that his Brother the Arch-Duke headed an Army, aspiring after the imperial Crown, and prevailed so far that he was

" Kepler, Longomontanus, Gotfr. Wendelin, Clu-
erius.

decla-

declared the King of *Hungaria*, after which he persecuted the Protestants in *Austria*. The Duke of *Lorrain* died. There were great Wars between the *Swedes* and *Danes*.

A.D. 1618. This year is famous for Blazing Stars, inasmuch as therein no less than four Comets were observed. The first appeared from August 25. to September 25. about three hours after midnight, casting its blaze from the East towards the West. September 1. Kepler observed it to be a little below the left foot of *Ursa major*, and declining towards the head of *Leo*, its motion was retrograde. Sept. 6. with the naked eye no blaze could be perceived, but with the Telescope one might perceive it like a thin Cloud : Sept. 23. it was come to 29. of *Cancer*. Lat. Boreal 23. about 10 dayes, deflexing from the Ecliptick Southward, almost 15 Degrees, having a retrograde motion. The Star was hardly perceptible in Europe by reason of its vicinity to the Sun, but in *Persia*, and in the *East-Indies* (though not in Europe) continuing from November 22. to December 13. The fourth and last Comet appearing this year, was that which all the Earth looked upon with astonishment. It was first taken notice of November 24. and continued to January 24. h.e. for the space of 60 dayes. There are some now living who remember this blazing Star. But I find a far other kind of Description given of it in the Books of those learned Mathematicians,

who

who were accurate and diligent observers of this Prodigy, then that which is related by those still alive, that in their youth might see it. There had not the like Comet to this appeared for the space of 150 years.

It was seen first in *Libra*, moving towards the North with some inclination Westward, viz. through the midst of *Libra* and *Bootes*, when it came there it might be seen all the night long. The body of the Comet was to appearance bigger then a Star of the first magnitude, and would sometimes seem to twinkle. *Wendeline*, *Cusatus* and others that viewed it with a *Telescope*, did to their admiration observe a little Nut or Star in the body of this Comet; after that it was broken into three Stars like Coals of fire in a flaming Oven; after that into a multitude of little Stars which could not be numbered because they would sometimes sparkle out, and otherwhile abscond from the eye. The blaze was narrow near the Star, but broad at a distance from it. At its first appearance it bended like a Bow, but afterwards it appeared straight. The Colour of the Blaze near the Star was red and fiery, but towards the end of it white and pale, very much resembling the *Via Lattea*. December 21. the visible Longitude of the blaze was 22 Degrees, December 8. it was 58 Degrees, Decemb. 9. it was 75. Degrees in length. *Longomontanus* saith that once the Blaze was extended one hundred & four degrees.

in length; and that as for its distance from the Earth it was four times as high as the Moon, viz. 240 S.T. Before it was extin~~ct~~ it had a less *Parallax* than the Sun, and therefore was above it. The true length of the blaze was beyond that of its distance from the Earth no less than 445 S.T. so that a man going forty miles every day would not in an hundred years go so far as that blaze extended. He might sooner go round the whole Earth seventy times over, then once go over the extent of that formidable blaze. Remarkable Events, attending these Comets, were, the death of the Emperour and Empress. A drought all that Winter; An Earth-quake (which hapned on the day when the first of these Comets appeared) in Italy removed a Mountain which fell upon the Town of *Plours*, whereby an 1500. persons were crushed to death in a moment. But the great and fatal consequent of this Prodigy, was, the *Bokemic* and *Germanic* War, in which Rivers of Blood were poured forth. No less then six (some say eight) hundred thousand lives being cut off by the devouring mouth of the Sword. And the Prince *Palatine*, King of *Bohemia* dispossessed of his hæreditary Estate, forced to fly for his life, and his Countrey made a desolation. Quickly after these Blazing Stars, God sent the Plague amongst the *Indians* here in *New-England* which swept them away in such numbers, as that the living were not enough to bury the dead. This year

ear also in Grand Caire in Egypt there died six
hundred thousand by the Pestilence.

A.D. 1652. A Comet was seen December 10.
continuing 21 dayes. Its motion was retrograde
from the South towards the North, through the
Tare, the foot of Orion, Taurus, unto Perseus.
Its diurnal motion at first was 11 Degrees and
6 Minutes, but at last hardly 30 Minutes. When
it was nearest to the Earth, its distance was 110
P.T. the Parallax being 31. m. 15. sec. But a
little before its disappearance it was removed
2509. S.T. the Parallax being but 9 sec. so that
at last it was as high as the Orb of Jupiter. When
observed with a Telescope, the head appeared to
be round, (w) and not less then the Moon when
at the full; and four or five clots might be dis-
cerned in the Cometical body, whereof two were
something bigger then the rest, and many minute
little bodies resembling Stars, but their light not
so vivid as that of the true Stars is. These clots
in the Cometical body, did very much alter and
dissipate every day. The blaze was seven degrees
to its visible Longitude, in form like a Pyramide
or Pillar of a dusky, smoaky kind of aspect.
The true diameter of the Comet was 825. Mill.
Ierm., so that if a Man should travail 10 German
or 40 of our miles every day, he could not
round the body of this Comet in less then
59 dayes, of so vast a circumference was its
genuide. Many undertook to predict strange
things

w Heyelius, VVendelius.

things from the appearance of this Blazing Star Especially a blind but insolent (x) Buzzard of our own Nation (as learned Mr. Gataker in the English Annotations on Febr. 10.2. not undeservedly calls him) foretold matters which never came to pass, yet several things very remarkable we all know attended this Comet, e. g. Wars between England and Holland, Denmark, Sweden. Bloody Sea-fights, the Sea and the Waves thereof roaring Strange alterations in England, for the next year Cromwel dissolved that which is known by the name of the Rump-Parliament, and set up for himself. Also Quakerisme now began to infest the World. The Pope and the King of Bohemia died within a year or two of this Comet.

A.D. 1661. A Comet appeared in the morning from Febr. 3. to March 28. S.T. N. It was below the *Dolphin*, between the heads of *Aquil* and *Equuleus* in the 10. Grad. Its distance from the Earth was at first 2000, and at last 9000 S.F. so that it was higher then the Sun. Its motion direct from the East to the West. The Telescop discovered a Star to be in the body of the Comet about which a more thin and dilute matter might be discerned. Febr. 5. that Star was divided into several parts. Febr. 6. it was dissipated into many little Stars, one of which was more dense and shining then the rest. The blaze was obscure, and about seven degrees in Longitude, according

x viz. VVill. Lilly.

cording to Hevelius (*y*) but Franciscus Millett (*z*) writeth that it was sometimes extended unto 20 Degrees in Longitude, of a conical form. As for Events, the Turks fell upon Germany (where especially this (*a*) Comet was observed) making woful havock there. That black Bartholomew's day, which the Nonconformists in England, so much complain of, hapned but half a year after this Comet. The Fanaticks lay, that the like is not to be paralleld in any History, that five and twenty hundred Ministers should be silenced in one day. It is also said, that these Stars which were thus cast down, were some of them of the first magnitude. And therefore a Comet might well precede an event so remarkable. But this must pass for a Phanatick notion. Not long after his Comet, the cruel Tartars made incursions into Hungaria, Moravia, Silesia, sacking and burning many Towers, and making no less then a hundred and threescore thousand Souls Captives, (*r*) whom they sold to their barbarous Brethren the Turks.

A.D. 1664. A famous Comet was conspicuous to the whole VWorld this year. Many have published their Sentiments concerning it. A Reverend and worthy Person (*b*) amongst our selves

y Cometogr. L. 12. P. 892, &c. *z* Astron. L. 8. P. 582.
Edlin's Discourse of the Conjunction, An. 1663. *a* v. Mornens Geography, P. 140. *b* Mr. Danforth Pastor of the
Church in Roxbury.

(who

(who is now ascended above the Stars) hath left us his observations about the motions of this Comet as by himself taken notice of. But no man hath done it with greater accuracy then *Hevelius*, who being singularly advantaged with the best Mathematical Instruments which the World can afford to make discoveries of this nature. (c.) Reports that it was observed by him in *Dantzick*. *Decemb. 14. S.T.N.* About 5 h. A.M. in the 8. Degree of *Libra*, the head of a somewhat yellowish colour, affording a dull and dim light, never so vivid and splendid as the true Stars or Planets appear with, in the very middle of which one might perceive a more clear shining body, whose diameter was about four Minutes, environed with a thinner Body of 12. Minutes, whose light was more dim. But when observed with a long Telescope, one might see that the Star in the midst of the head of the Comet, did not consist of one clot only, but of many particles, some of which were more compact and lucid, others more thin and obscure. As the subtle matter observed about the small particles like Nuts in the body of the Comet, was condensed, the head grew bigger, so as that *December 29.* it was observed to comprehend 24 Minutes, and in the midst of it a most lucid and thick clot, of a fiery colour, which was compassed about with matter, some of which was

c. In libro supra citato.

more

more rare, some more dense, intermixed with lesser Nuts or Stars. In the beginning of January, that thick and lucid Clot began to attenuate, and break away, whence the head of the Comet was diminished, that January 6. it seemed to contain but 8 Minutes, January 22. The form of the Comet was not exactly round, but seemed to be rough and broken, and in some places pointing out more then in other places. As for the true magnitude of the Comet, it was at first about six times as big as the Earth, after it was diminished in January, it was again augmented in February. It did not always keep the same distance from the Earth. The Parallax was 59. sec. In the midst of its appearance, when the motion was most swift about 4.m. and at last but 16. sec. so that at first it was distant from the Earth 3500. S.T. in the midst 1000. And February 4. 1200. S.T. Towards the end of December when nearest to the Earth, it was twenty times as far off as the Moon, in the middle of January it was as high as the Sun, in the beginning of February as remote from the Earth, as Mars is. The Blaze was 14. Degrees in Longitude, being towards the extremity spread abroad, resembling a Peacock's tail. It appeared sometimes longer, and sometimes shorter, December 21. it was observed to be 22 Degrees in length, and towards the point of it, to bend a little, the concavity towards the horizon, but the next day it was straight again

December 28. a sudden and great alteration wa
observed in the Blaze; for it pointed not toward
the West, as before it had done, but upwards an
towards the North. From December 29. it be
gan to incline more Eastward. January 5. th
Blaze pointed directly towards the East. It wa
observable that it seemed still to point toward
the Gemini; so that the Blaze was ever in oppo
sition to the Sun; and we may therefore conclud
that it did proceed from the beams thereof, pier
cing through the body of the Comet. The Sta
lost its Blaze in the latter end of January, and
yet recovered it again in part in the beginning o
February. Its motion was retrograde, from Cor
vus, through Hydra, the Ship, Canis major, th
Hare, Eridanus, the head of the Whale unto A
ries, so that it passed through six signes in the Zi
odiac, viz. Libra, Virgo, Leo, Cancer, Gemini,
Taurus. Thus far is Hevelius his account of thi
notable Comet. Not long after this another, n
less admirable did appear. It was by the but no
mentioned learned person first observed, April 1
S.T. N. about 1 h. A.M, in the breast of Pega
sus, viz. in 14. 21. of Pisces, and Lat. Boreal
26. 30. of a clear and radiant aspect. In th
midst of the Comets head one might with a T
lescope discern one Nucleus or Star very lucid an
shining like Gold, which was encompassed wit
a more dilute matter. The Blaze proceedin
therefrom was almost as thick as the matter i
whic

which the *Nucleus* was contained. April 8. it appeared very lucid, so that one might perceive the Comet after the other Stars disappeared, the *Nucleus* not much altered from what it was at first April 16. the Comet seemed brighter then any of the fixed Stars, yea to outshine *Saturn*; then by the help of the *Telescope* one might discern the *Nucleus* to be more bright and bigger then before. The Diameter of the *Nucleus* was less then *Jupiter's*, but equal to *Saturn's*, whence one might conclude that the Comet was as yet increasing. The *Nucleus* seemed to cast a notable shadow on that side which was averse to the Sun. For the blaze seemed to be divided, the reason of which might be because the *Nucleus* was so compact and solid, that the beams of the Sun could not pass through it, only through the thin matter which was on both sides of it. The matter on the fore part of the *Nucleus* as the Comet came nearer to the Sun, appeared to be more acuminate and diminished. The Parallax of this Comet was at first 69 sec. at last 41. sec. The magnitude of the *Nucleus* was 12. sec. and of the whole head of the Comet 6. min. so that when nearest to the Earth, it was sixty times as high as the Moon, and at last as high as the Sun. The blaze was 17. sometimes 25. Degrees as to its visible Longitude. The motion of this Comet was direct according to the order of the signs, at first appearing in *Pisces*, and at last in *Taurus*. It

continued for the space of fourteen dayes.

As for remarkable Events attending these *Bla-*
zing Stars, we cannot but remember what doleful
things quickly followed. An unhappy War be-
tween two professing Nations, viz. the *English* and
the *Dutch*, whereby much Christian and Prote-
stant blood was shed. A terrible Plague in *En-*
gland the like never known there before this time,
so that in *London* (besides what was in some other
parts of the Nation) there died sometimes a-
bove seventeen thousand in one week; and more
then an hundred thousand were swept away in a
years time in that one City by the besome of De-
struction which the Lord sent amongst them. The
next year the *Papists* set *London* on fire; which
dreadful Conflagration continued for several
dayes, until eighty seven Parishes were consumed
by those fatal flames. The smoak of that burn-
ing caused the Sun to look as if it were turned
into darkness, and the Moon into blood. It hath
been computed that there were burnt within the
Walls of the City twelve thousand houses, and
without a thousand. * The whole damage a-
mounting to at least nine Millions, and nine hun-
dred thousand pounds *sterling*. Also, the mis-
eries which the *English* inhabiting the *Caribbee*
Islands, were not long after these Comets, expo-
sed unto, not only by the Sword of their Enemis,

* See Mr. Mordens Geography, P. 18.

out by the prodigious Tempests which God sent amongst them, are still fresh in memory.

A.D. 1667. Feb. 15. A Comet was seen only the *Coma* and not the Star could be by us discerned by reason of its being in the sign *Pisces*, where the Sun then was. Its Longitude above thirty Degrees. + March 1. Its extream point reached to that Star in *Eridanus* which is called the fourteenth by *Bayerus*. March 2. it passed through the 15 Star in *Eridanus*, and left to the southward the 14th. tending to the Scuthorn Star which precedes the Ear of *Lepus*, so that it was more Northerly, and more Easterly then at first. Both in *Italy* and in *Portugal* it was observed at the same time, as with us in *New-England*. Also at *Lions* and several other places in *France*; and yet (which is very strange) it was not observed at *Paris*, nor at *London* or in any part of *England*. The *London Gazette* saith, that March 17. at *Venice* they observed a Comet to the North-East, the tail of it much longer then that which appeared three years since, but of less brightness, and that it was seen late in the night.

As for Events; many places were this year sorely afflicted with *Earth quakes*. In *Asia*, there was an horrendous *Earth quake* which continued for 80 dayes together. The Cities of

+ See the Philosophical Transactions for An. 1658. Vol. 2. P. 683, 684.

Begbara, Angora, and several other Towns suffered much thereby. The City of Tocall was wholly levelled to the ground. Polio (a considerable City) was destroyed, a thousand and eight hundred persons being killed by their Houses falling upon them. Torqueto (another considerable City) was overthrown in a moment, and above six thousand persons lost their lives, being buried in the ruine of the City. Also several places in Europe were affrighted with Earth quakes this year: particularly Constantinople, and Adrianople but especially Raguse which was in a great part destroyed. Also the Plague broke out, in the chief City of the European Tartary; and in great Poland, and in Paccardy, it raged in Donau, Ghent and other places. A fire in Moscow destroyed thirty thousand Housles, and five hundred Churches and Chappels; a great part of the Cities of Gottenbourg, and Stitin, were this year also consumed by fire. In the Countrey about Cadiz there was a great Drought, so as that the Death of many of their Cattle was occasioned thereby. The Turks made very furious Assaults upon Candia, which was the next year surrendered to them; the King of Poland resigned his Crown into the hands of the States, by which means that Kingdome was involved in troubles and confusions. A prodigious Tempest laptred there, Hail stones of an incredible bigness fell upon the Trees, breaking them so as was strange to behold. The people

ple there concluded that this Hail-storm was a presage of their future sufferings. *Don Juan* caused great Troubles and Commotions in the Kingdome of *Spain*. There hapned a Popular Tumult in *Sardinia* wherein the multitude enraged at the Taxes imposed on them, killed the Vice-Roy. In *Africa* *Tafileto* made great stirrs subduing the Kingdomes of *Fez* and *Morocco* to his obedience, so that by his Conquests, he at last styled himself not only the King but the Emperour of *Barbary*.

A.D. 1677. A Comet appeared in the sign *Taurus*, between the Base of the Triangle, and the unformed Stars in the Cloud of *Aries*. The head of it was in a right line with the heart of *Cassiopeja* and the *Alamak*. (d) It seemed to be about the bigness of a Star of the first magnitude, but of a much fainter and duller Light. It had a bright Star in the middle of it, about the brightness of *Saturn*, when near the Horizon, and was about 25 Seconds in Diameter, the matter in which it was involved having an hazy shining, but not so clear, and bright, and dense as the *Nucleus* in it was. The length of it was about eight Degrees, sometimes longer, and sometimes shorter. *Cassini* observed it at *Paris*, April 18. * *Hevelius* at *Dantzick*, April 17. and it

d See Mr. Robert Hooke's Remarks upon this Comet. * Philosophical Transactions for the year 1677. P. 863.

continued until April 28, h.e. 12 dayes. Its motion being direct, it soon came to be in conjunction with the Sun ; and then could not be by us discerned.

As for Events following this Comet ; within a year a Town in Piedmont called Bosia suddenly sunk down into the Earth, so as that nothing of it appeared, only two persons in the whole Town that escaped with their lives. But I find that some late Writers in England, think that this Comet was an Omen of the late Horrid Popish Plot, wherein it was resolved that the Protestant Name should no more be had in remembrance, which hellish design was ripe for Execution, had not He which sits in the Heavens prevented. It was before observed, that Hamans bloody Conspiracy to cut off the Lords People, was attended with a Blazing Star : And why might not this Combination of the Antichristian party (which was worse then that of Hamans) be so too ? Now as the Discovery of Haman (who was a Type of Anti-Christ) his wicked contrivance, ended in the utter destruction of himself, and of his Children; So the Lord grant that the revealing of this Popish Plot may issue in the ruine of Antichrist, and of those that do uphold him ; and let every Man that fears God, or that bears any love to his Name and Truth, say, Amen !

A D. 1680. The motion of the Comet which appeared this year, was diligently followed by

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the Ingenious Mr. John Foster, the late Printer in Boston in New-England. And though he be gone (not without a publick loss by his death and the sorrow of many) it being mentioned amongst evil Omens, that the cunning Artificer shali be taken away) he hath left behind him, some of his Observations concerning this Comet. It was first here taken notice of Nov. 14. at 3. h. A.M. near 18 Degrees of Libra. 1 Gr. and 30. min. Lat. Austrel. Nov. 19. It was within a Degree of *Spica Virginis*, directing its course Northward about 40. min. Several Mornings after that were cloudy here in Boston, and not long after it was in conjunction with the Sun, so that it was seen no more in the Morning. It was then conjectured that within a few dayes it would appear in the Evening, and so it did Dec. 10. when only the *Blaze* and not the *Star* was to us visible. December 12. Its *Blaze* appeared very red and fiery, extending as far as the breast of the *Swan*. Dec. 14. its head was first discerned, the *Blaze* passing to the North-ward of *Cor Aquila*. Dec. 16. its appearance was very terrible, the *Blaze* ascended above 60 Degrees almost to its *Zenith*, growing continually broader from the head, and was brightest on both ends, especially on the South side, the middle considerably darker then either of the sides. Jan. 8. Gave the fairest opportunity to find its true place and parallax, by its approach to a fixed Star of the third Magnitude, in the right

right shoulder of *Andromeda*. At 6. b. 5. m. it was 28. m. distant from that Star. At 50. m. past 6. its distance was 25. m. At 10. b. 5. m. The Comet passing by the said Star, left it 12. m. Southward. Its visible hourly motion was 6. m. direct, which if compared with its daily motion, we shall find it little (if at all) retarded by reason of its *Parallax*, which is an evidence of its vast distance from the Earth. For if it had not been much higher then the Moon, its true motion would have far exceeded its visible. About the middle of *February*, it vanished out of our sight.

As for Remarkable Events, attending this Blazing Star, We that live in *America* know but little of the great Motions in *Europe*, much less in *Africa* and *Asia*, until a long time afterwards. Only we are informed of some considerable Commotions the last year, between the *Tatars* and the *Chinians*. Likewise in *Hungaria*, some things worthy of Remark have hapned. Above four hundred Villages in that Countrey have lately been laid desolate by Sword and Fire. The *Turks* have an Army on foot there, and it is strange to consider (only God maketh the Earth to help the Woman) that those Barbarous Infidels, should declare unto the Emperour of *Germany*, that they will not be at peace with him, except he do's restore unto the oppressed *Poles* their liberties and estates which have been unjustly taken from

from them. The Pope has disposed of the Ecclesiastical 10th. in the State *Milan* to be employed in a war against the Hungarian Protestants. This last Summer the Protestants (commonly called *Rebels*) in those parts have had Wonderful successes against the Popish Generation. It is possible this may be a beginning of *Revenge* upon the *Enemy*. The great expectation, is, that the next year the *Grand Signior* will come in person, against the Emperour, with the most formidable Army which hath been known in the World for these many ages. It may be another (the last and most fatal) blast of the second wo Trumpet, is now about to sound. In the Summer after this *Blazing Star*, there was an afflictive Drought, not only in *America*, but in *Europe*. The next (i.e. the last) winter, there was a great Inundation in the *Netherlands*; many thousands perished in the fatal night when those great Waters came nigh unto them. It is said that those Provinces suffered more by that Inundation, than by all the *French Wars* which of late have been so heavy upon them. The poor Protestants in *France*, are blazing in a flame of Persecution. The *French KING* in his Declaration newly come forth, boasts that he hath caused several Millions of Protestants to forsake their holy Profession, and to turn *Roman Catholics*; He also and the Pope are quarrelling who shall be Pope in *France*. Yea his hand seems to be against every one, and every mans against him;

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the issue whereof must needs in probability be some great overturnings and alteration of the present State of Affairs in *Europe*. And besides these particulars (which are considerable) other things have come to pass in *Europe* since the Comet last mentioned, which deserve to have a Remark set upon them. For the last year there was a terrible conflagration in *Moscow* (it begun in a Stable) whereby four thousand Houses were consumed, and turned into ruinous heaps. And this last Summer the great City of *Plesco*, is made desolate by fire, not above seventy Houses remaining. Also the *Czar* (or *Emperour*) of *Muscovia* is lately dead; and his Death hath occasioned a very great Commotion about a Successour to the Crown. At first his Brother was Proclaimed; but the City of *Mosco* rose up in Arms about it, and the Souldiers there have lately made a dismal slaughter amongst the Nobility and chief Citizens, deposing the late *Czar's* Brother, and setting up his Uncle as *Emperour* in his stead. For three dayes together (viz. 15, 16, & 17 of *May* last) things in that great and imperial City, were in the strangest Confusion imaginable; on the seventh day of *June* last, a terrible *Earth-quake* hapned in that part of the World, continuing for the space of half an hour, whereby many stately Fabricks were thrown down to the ground, and an hundred lives destroyed by their fall. Moreover this last Summer, God hath opened the Windows of Heaven

ven in a very awful manner, so as that the Floods occasioned by the great Rains, have destroyed many Towns in *Sicily*. We hear that Mount *Etna* (which has been wont to vomit Fire) has of late cast out such an abundance of Water, as that the Neighbouring Countrey is drowned thereby. We hear also, that on the sixth day of June last, a most prodigious Tempest hapned in *Sicily*, whereb; the Town of *Randazzo*, *Franca-*
ville, and *Tertorica* became subject to a sudden and unexpected ruin. About half an hour before Sun-
set, there hapned so great a darkness, as that no object could be distinguished at the distance of four paces; after which there arose an amazing Storm of Rain, Thunder and Lightning, which lasted for thirty six hours. About one of the clock in the Morning, great Torrents fell upon the Neighbouring Mountains, with such irresistible fury, as that Trees of extraordinary bigness were carried away before them, which coming against *Tertorica* threw down the Walls and Hou-
ses thereof, 600. of the Inhabitants were drowned. The Arch-Deacon, and many others ran into the Church of St. *Nicholas* for safety, but the violent Waters overthrew the Church, and destroyed all the People which hoped to find Sanctuary therein On the 25 of June last the Popes Palace of St. *Peters* in *Rome*, was stricken with a Thunder-bolt, the Fire-ball passing from one Room to another, until it enired that where the Pope useth to give Audience

Audience. *Fanaticks* think that this may be an Omen that Heaven will pour down a Viol full of Wrath upon the Throne of the Beast ere long.

A.D. 1682. It is reported that in *Germany* a Blazing Star was seen June 17. in the South-west, which continued visible for the space of an hour, and was then obscured by the rising of the Sun. If that Relation be true, there have been two Comets (or one hath twice appeared) this present year. For it is certain that there was one visible in *August* last. Some had a sight of it *August* 15. for my own part, I saw not until *August* 18. 3. h. A.M. when it was in the foreclaw of *Ursa major*. The stream about 10. Degrees in Longitude; the Star bigger then that which appeared about 2 years ago. It was then perceived by us in *N.E.* only in the morning, wheras I am informed by Letters from *London*, that they saw it in the Evening the same night when we beheld it in the morning only. By reason of its septentrional Latitude, tis past doubt that in the more Northern Climates it was seen both in the morning and in the evening of the same day, yea all the night long, as hath been noted concerning the Comets appeared *Annis* 1431, 1470, 1513, 1607. *August* 23. it was by us in *New-England* seen in the Evening only, having removed from the place we first saw it in, about 39 Degrees, and was come near *Coma Berenices*; not considerably changing its Latitude, but moving in a line almost parallel

parallel with the Ecliptick. That it passed through *Coma Berenices*, and through the leg of *Bootes*. August 31. Its Latitude was diminished from 24. to 16. Gr. It was come between the feet of *Bootes*, about 75. Degrees from the place we first saw it in. I had not an opportunity to view it with a *Telescope* above once (and that was Sept. 12.) through which it appeared to be a very dim and hazy kind of body. It was then about the foot of *Virgo*, where it disappeared in the Month of *Sepumber*.

There is an Anonymous Astrologer in London (some of whose Notions are taken out of *Gadibus* Book of Comets, Printed Anno 1665.) that has published his Sentiments upon this Comet; presumptuously determining not only what the Events are which shall attend this, with the former Blazing Stars, but the places, yea and persons concerned therein. No man of wisdome and judgement can relish the boldness of such a Prophetastor; Especially considering that he does praedict things that are contrary to the Scriptures of Truth. He prophesies of the *Turks* Conversion, and consequently Salvation; when as the sure Word of Prophecie unto which we shall do well to give heed, informs us that the *Turk* shall come to his end, and there shall be none to help him, *Numb.* 24. 24. *Dan.* 11. 45. *Rev.* 9. 15. The vain Astrologer likewise affirms, that *Rome* shall be destroyed by the Turkish power, when as the

holy

holy Scriptures assure us, that it shall be done by some of those horns which have given their power to (the Pope) Antichrist, which the Turk never did, *Rev.* 17, 16. If men did with understanding read the Scriptures more, they would mind Judicial Astrologers less. This notwithstanding I find that judicious Writers are of Opinion that such a *Saturnine Comet* as this was, hath a natural influence into, and therefore does portend a cold and tedious Winter, much Snow, and consequently great Floods ; Malignant and Epidemical Diseases ; in special the Plague : concerning which *Deus avertat Omen!* Some things worthy of Remark, have already hapned in Europe, being contemporary with this *Blazing Star*. I understand by Letters, that Vines and Corn are very much damasified, in several Countries by the great Rains which have fallen the latter end of this last Summer. We are also ascertained, that about the middle of September last (the Comet being hardly out of sight) there was a very prodigious Tempest in Italy. Not far from *Florence* there hapned most terrible Thunder and Hail mingled with Fire ; the Hail-stones were many of them three, some of them five pound in weight ; the like was never known in these parts ; The wild Beasts and Birds were killed thereby. For the space of eight Miles in length, and two in breadth. It swept away all the Branches from the greatest Trees, as Oakes, Chestnuts, &c. It destroyed all

the

the Autumn Harvest that was on the Ground, and left not a Vine standing. It carried away the roofs of Houses; inasmuch as persons were killed in their beds. A Church was beat down to the ground, and the Bells carried a quarter of a mile. Since this Discourse was written and sent to the Presse, we have the sad Tidings of another dismal Fire, which hapned in London this Winter, viz. on the 19th. day of November last: It is reported that a thousand Houses were consumed in those unhappy Flames. What further Events shall attend this Blazing Star which our eyes have so lately beheld, is known unto him, Who ruleth in the Army of Heaven, and doth what he will amongst the Children of Men.

CHAP. X.

That Blazing Stars are commonly signs of evil Events, therefore not to be slighted; nor this last Blazing Star which is attended with such rare Conjunctions of the Planets. Judicial Astrologers condemned. The Conclusion.

From the things which have been expressed, We may rationally conclude, that all the wise Men who lived in all former Ages were not altogether mistaken, when they believed that Comets are forerunners of some great and commonly mis-

ferable Events hastening upon the World. Judicious Zanchy (as well as Mede) conceives that by the Pillars of Smoke spoken of in the Prophet Joel, as portentous of the amazing and terrible things which were coming upon the Jewish Nation Blazing Stars are meant, he saith that when he lived at Strasburge, there was a Comet seen; after which the death of some great Personages, and civil Wars in France ensued: and addeth (a) that if we read and observe Histories, we shall find that thus it hath been ever since the World begun, that Comets have never appeared; but soon after, miserable Wars, mortal Diseases, &c. have followed. So that they are pitachers of divine wrath, and the consequences of them prove fatal unto some or other, in which respect all ought to walk with an holy fear of the infinite Majesty, who doth whatsoever he pleaseth in Heaven and Earth, in the Sea, and in all deep places, and accordingly causeth such tokens to appear in the Heavens when it seemeth good unto him. And whereas, Droughts, Caterpillars, Tempests, Inundations, Sickneses, are frequently known to follow upon the appearance of such Phænomena's, I see no sufficient reason why we should not suppose them to be not only signal but causal thereof; and perhaps of Earth-quakes (b) also. It is undubi-

a De operibus Dei, L.3.C.2. b Non defuerunt qui ex coeli observatione terræ motum prædicerent. Philo. table

ble that the true Planets and fixed Stars have a natural influence into such things, though the manner of their operation is by us silly Mortals indeclarable. Gen. 1.14. Deut. 33.13,14. Judg. 20. Job 38.31,32,33. And therefore it is not impossible but that *Comets* may have the like natural influence, especially when they are near to the Sun, and that therefore the Blaze proceeding from them reacheth the Earth, though by us uniscernable. The light which the Moon recei-
veth from the Sun bath a physical and wonderful influence upon the Earth, so may the Beams which blaze through a Cometical body have likewise. As to their natural operation, they may have different effects, causing Droughts in one place, in-
undations in another, Earth quakes in another, &c. according to the occult qualities which are the subjects of their influence. And whereas, Wars, Commotions, Persecutions, Heresies, the Death of Princes, Changes, and overturnings in the World, do usually happen after the appearance of such stars, they seem to be only signal and not causal of such events. The reasons alleged by some to prove that Comets have a physical influence into such effects are not solid. I should therefore rather conclude, that they are signs of such things to follow only in respect of their Universal and Supernatural cause, God having ordained them for that end, that so the Inhabitants of the World, when they behold such fearful sights might thereby

by be awakened unto repentance. I know som
Learned Men do not assent unto this conclusion.
Scaliger laughs at their conceit who (c) suppose
that Comets threaten Kings and Kingdomes.
Budrarius (d) hath published a Tractate, whose
design is to prove the contrary. And the truth
is, that the Arguments insisted on by the Admi
ters of Aristotle are frivolous; And when they
speak of Comets falling upon the Earth, and se
infesting the Air, and tell us that sometimes Stones
of a Sulphurous nature have fallen down out of
them, their phantasies are ridiculous. But it doth
not follow that a principle is not true, because it
hath been weakly maintained by some that have
undertaken its Patronage. The weightiest ob
jection against the inference which we adhere un
to, is, That there have been some happy Comets,
and that the evils pretended to follow after them,
have sometimes hapned when no Comet hath ap
peared. *Tacitus* calls that an happy Blazing
Star which was seen before *Nero's* Death, because
it signified the downfall of one that had a malig
nant influence upon the whole Earth; Others
mention the Comets that were observed before
wickliff, Huss, and Luther began to publish, the
Go^rpel, as happy Omens that the light of truth
should be dispersed in the World. But truly,
the number of instances on this hand, is so small,
and inconsiderable, that it cannot invalidate their

c De subtilitate exercit. 79.
Keckermann in Syst. Phys. L 6. P. 742.

d Referente
the

Assertion, who affirm that *Blazing Stars* are most commonly portentous of evil Events. And if we should say as some do that the appearance of a Comet is like the coming of a New Ruler to the people, (e) Either a great good or a great evil, there is room left to fear the worst. Moreover, as there are contrary Interests in the World, so that may be happy for one, that will be woful for the other. And although such evil Events as those in the preceding Chapters related, have sometimes hapned without any blazing star immediately forerunning, that doth not prove, that when such signs do appear in heaven, they are no signal of miseries not far off. Wars & commotions have hapned though Armies have not been seen fighting in the Air. Will any man therefore say, that such apparitions are not to be accounted ominous or significative that evils of that nature are like to ensue? However, it is certainly much better for men to fear and prepare for the worst, than that Judgement should overwhelm them in their sin and security. A Jesuit confesseth, (f) that when *Johannes de Capistrano* upon the appearance of a Comet. A.D. 1460. declared in his publick Sermons, that except the world did reform their lives and wayes, they might justly expect that great Calamities were at hand, it was both piously and prudently done of him. It is dangerous for men to jest with such awful works of God. They that do so are guilty of worse
e v. Keckerman in eodem libro P.732. f Ricciolus P.34.

then barbarous prophaneſs: and ſuch perſon
(be they high or low) ſeldome long eſcape the
vengeance of Heaven. Some have obſerve
that (g) when Pericles slighted a great Eclipse of
the Moon, it proved a fatal Eclipse to him, and
to thoſe that he was concerned in. And Vefpafian
Example ſhould teach men to be careful how they
despife ſuch Works of God. *Lege Historiam n
fias Historia.* The merciful and righteous Go
d uſeth to diſcharge his Warning pieces before hi
Murdering pieces go off. Thrice happy the
who take the Warning. I know not but that the
poſſeffed man might ſpeak Truth, who affirmeſ
the best Verſe in Virgil to be that,

Disce iuſitiam moniti & non remnere Numen.

And as for this laſt Blazing Star, which is ge
nerlly diſregarded amongst Men in the World, i
ſeemeth to be the more Ominous, in that ſom
rare Conjunctions of the Superior Planets ha
ppen this year alſo: October 20. There was a Con
junction of Saturn and Jupiter in Leo, there ha
ving been in the preceeding Moneth of September
firſt a Conjunction of Jupiter and Mars, and the
of Saturn and Mars in the ſame ſign. And
(which is notable becauſe unusual) theſe two
Superior Planets make two Conjunctions mor

g Alfred. Theologie Naturalis part 2. p. 300.

in the same sign, the one in the next Moneth, viz.: on the thirtiech of *January*, in the 18. Degree of *Leo*; the other the sixth of *May* next in the sixteenth Degree of the same sign. As for those great Conjunctions of all the Planets which happen but once in 794. years, there have been but seven of them since the World begun. The second of which was attended with *Noah's Flood*. The third with the overthrow of *Pharaok*, when the Children of *Israel* were brought out of the Land of *Egypt*. The fourth with the Captivity of the *Ten Tribes*. The fifth with the beginning of the Christian, and the Destruction of the Jewish World. The sixth with the division of the Empire in the dayes of *Carolus Magnus*. The Last was 79. years ago. A Learned and Judicious Author (*b*) saith of it, that as the feudation of *Rome* was laid at the same time when the Children of *Israel* were carried into Captivity by the *Assyrians* under the fourth of these Conjunctions, so the seventh ere the consequents or concomitants of it be over, will be attended with the conversion of the *Jews*, and the utter ruin of *Rome*, which he thinks will come to pass in the year 1694. About which time some others conjecture that great things will be accomplished in the World. Mr. Brightman on *Rev. 9: 15.* concludeth that the present *Turkish Power* shall not be

b *Alpedius in Chronol. Cap. 48.*

continued beyond the year 1696. Dr. More supposed that the time allotted for the Reign of Antickrist will expire about the year 1692. Dr. Moulin's judgement was that the Pope shall not be able to make War with the Saints, so as to overcome them any more, after the year, 1689. Outinam! Others conceive that *Anno 1688.* will be a year of wonders, which brings to mind the Verses published by *Rigiomontanus* above two hundred years ago,

" Octagesimus Octavus mirabilis annus
Ingruet, & secum Tristia fata trahit.

Whether any of these have guessed right, he that lives thirteen years hence, will be better able to say: I am apt to believe that ere this Century be expired, there will be very great Revolutions in the World. But besides these general ones, there are particular Conjunctions of the two Superior Planets, which meet together once in (about) 20 years, and use to continue in their conjunction, until Mars come and joyn with them; and then it is admirable to behold three great Stars shining in the same sign in the Heavens, without any scintillation, * and these some call great Conjunctions (1) as portending great Events in

* v. Kepler Epit. Astron. L. 6 P. 654. (1) Conjunctione Saturni & Jovis vocatur conjunctione magna quia res magnas portendit. Keckermann. Astron. L. 1. C. 12.

the World? And such a conjunction there has & will be within this twelve moneths, besides several others, in the same year and in the same Sign in the Heavens (as but now was noted) which is admirable to consider; some say the like hath not been these two thousand years. And it being in one of the signs in the fiery Trigon, there are who conclude that great Desolations by burning are at hand. I find that some weighty Writers conceive that such rare Conjunctions are portentous not only of great Revolutions and Changes, but also of new and unheard of Diseases amongst Mortals. The judiciously learned Hospinian (k) seems to incline unto this Opinion. It cannot be denied, but that the Planets have a great influence upon the Earth as to things which according to the course of nature are produced: The five lesser Planets are in the Scripture, by way of eminency termed (l) Stars of light, and are conjunctly mentioned with the Sun and Moon, as affording light, and being influential to the Earth beyond what may be affirmed of other Stars, Psal. 148. 3 therefore to observe the Motion of the Cœlestial bodies, and what effects they do produce according to the ordinary course of nature, which the divine providence hath stated, is lawful and good. Turnbeusenus reports (how he knew it to be so, I

k De origine Festorum Christianorum, p. 28. l By the per in Psalm 8. ver. 4.

(cannot tell) (m) that the Holy Patriark Abraham, by occasion of the Comet which appeared A.M. 2018. was induced to study Astronomy, that so he might be the better able to judge of the nature and meaning of such works of God. All this notwithstanding the curiosity and presumption of *Indicial Astrologers*, is not to be justified, who undertake peremptorily to Prognosticate, what the particular things are, (yea, and the places and persons concerned in them) that shall come to pass after such Configurations and Planetary Aspects. I have read of a Mahomedan Astrologer who did praedict a great inundation to be in Syria, A.D. 1095. because of a Conjunction of all the Planets (except Saturn) in the watery sign of *Pisces*, (like as it was before Noah's Flood) which fell out to be true. But such Astrologers have at other times come off with shame by their bold and rash predictions, as *Calvinius*, and *Wendelinus* have more then once noted e.g. A.D. 1186. because of rare Conjunctions of all the Planets then hapning; the Astrologers of those dayes declared that there would follow horrendous Tempests of Wind, and after that I know not what miracles, nothing of which came to pass. Again, A.D. 1322.. By reason of a notable Conjunction of the Planets in *Libra*, one *John David* (a great Astrologer at Toledo in Spain) and many others with him, sent forth his Procla-

m] Reserente Keckermanno in System. Physic. P. 762.

ma-

missions abroad into the VVorld, declaring that that Conjunction of the Planets would be attended with Famine, Earth-quakes, and such a Storm of VVind, as that there would be no living above Ground, affirming that all the Philosophers and Astrologers in *Spain, Arabia, and in Greece* were of the same Opinion. But when these things should be accomplished, not a word of them proved true. Another on the like ground, declared that the world would end, *Anno. 1464*. Another from the like Planetary Conjunctions, prophesied that *Anno. 1524*. a General Deluge would overwhelm the Earth; which many injudicious people giving credit unto, got either into Ships or unto high Towers, lest haply the Astrologers flood should drown them. † But the event proved these predictions to be false and foolish.

Thus God delights to baffle *Judicial Astrologers*, when they will presume to know the times and the seasons, which he hath kept in his own power.. It was the saying of a wise King in *Poland*, that to be able certainly to predict future Events is Gods Prerogative: * And a wiser then he, yea, the wisest amongst the sinful Sons of Men hath said, A Man cannot tell what shall be,

† v. *Wendelin. Cont. Phys. Sect. 2. P. 349.* * Opinio præteritorum homini certa esse potest ; futurorum, per naturam non admodum potest, quamvis Deo tempora omnia presentia sunt, *P. Rami Dialect. Lib. 2. Cap. 3.*

and

and what shall be after him, who can tell? Eccles. 10. 14. Notable changes have hapned in our dayes, which the Monethly Prognosticators could tell us nothing of, before that God who rules in the Kingdomes of Men brought them to pass. The Star-gazers in old Babylon, who by looking upon the Heavens, and observing the Courses and Conjunctions of the Stars there, would undertake to tell the fates and fortunes of Kingdomes, all the Judicial Astrologers and Wizards there, could not by all their skill in the Stars read their own and the Nations ruin, until the day that it came upon them, Isai. 47. 13, 14. Therefore it is not good positively to determine what the particular miseries or mutations are, nor the persons or places that shall undoubtedly perceive the effects thereof, when rare Conjunctions of the Planetary Bodies happen, or when Blazing Stars appear. Only that at least some of those Evils which have been wont to attend the like appearances, are at the door, we may rationally conjecture and conclude.

I shall therefore finish this Discourse, with the apposite and celebrated Expressions of that Famous Poet (n) who Speaking of Comets, saith,

¶ Pontanus qui nulli sui seculi poetæ cessit, dicente Be-
zards in Bibliotheca.

Ibi etiam belli motus, siveque arma minantur
 Magnorum & Clades populorum, & funera Regum;
 Ut cum, seu Cœli occasum, seu solis ad orientem
 Extulerint caput infelix, & crine minaci
 Horrendum latè implerint terroribus urbes, &c;

To the same purpose another in English

speaketh thus, (o)

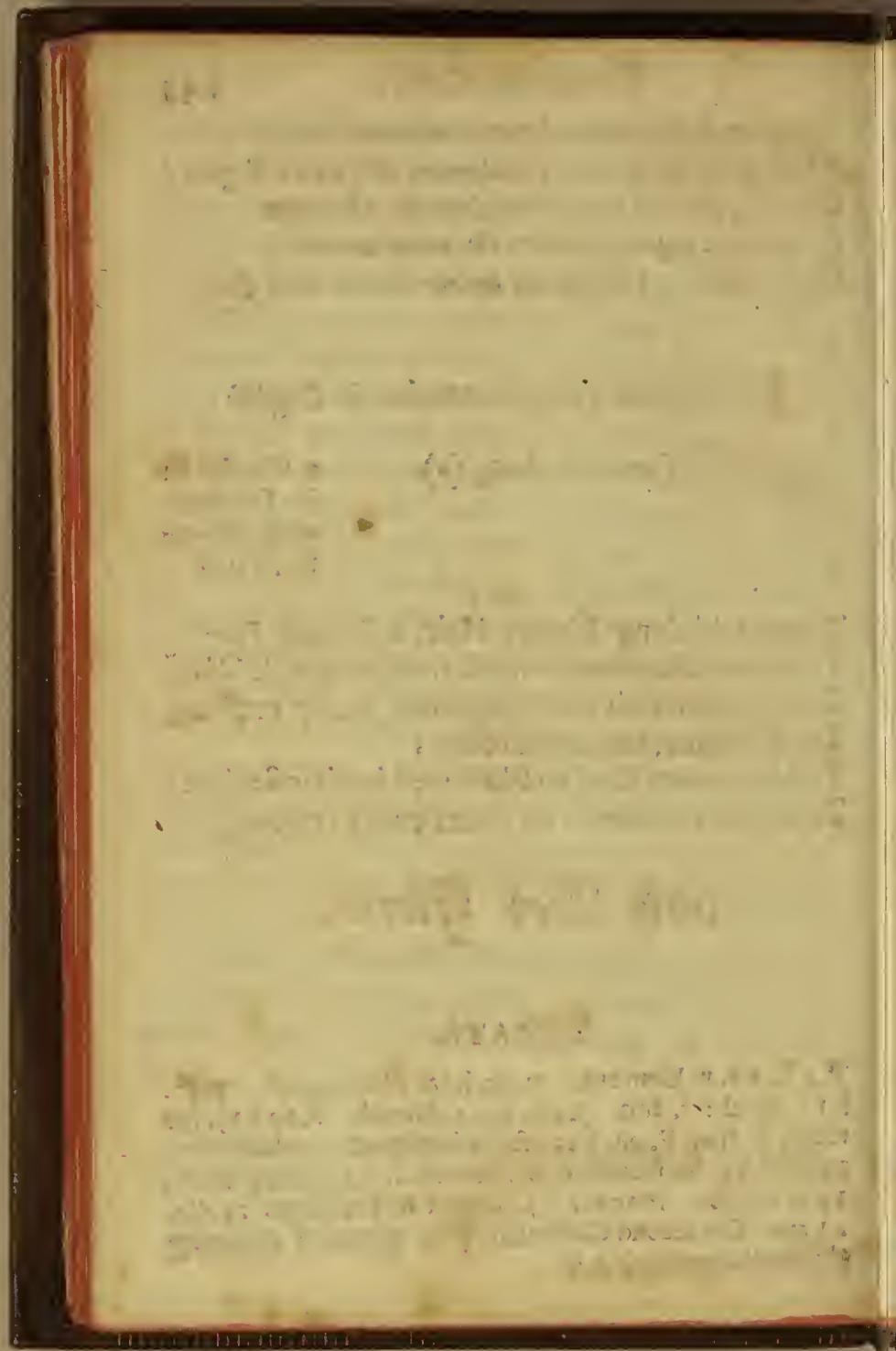
⁹ Silvester in
his Transla-
tion of Dubar-
tas, P. 14.

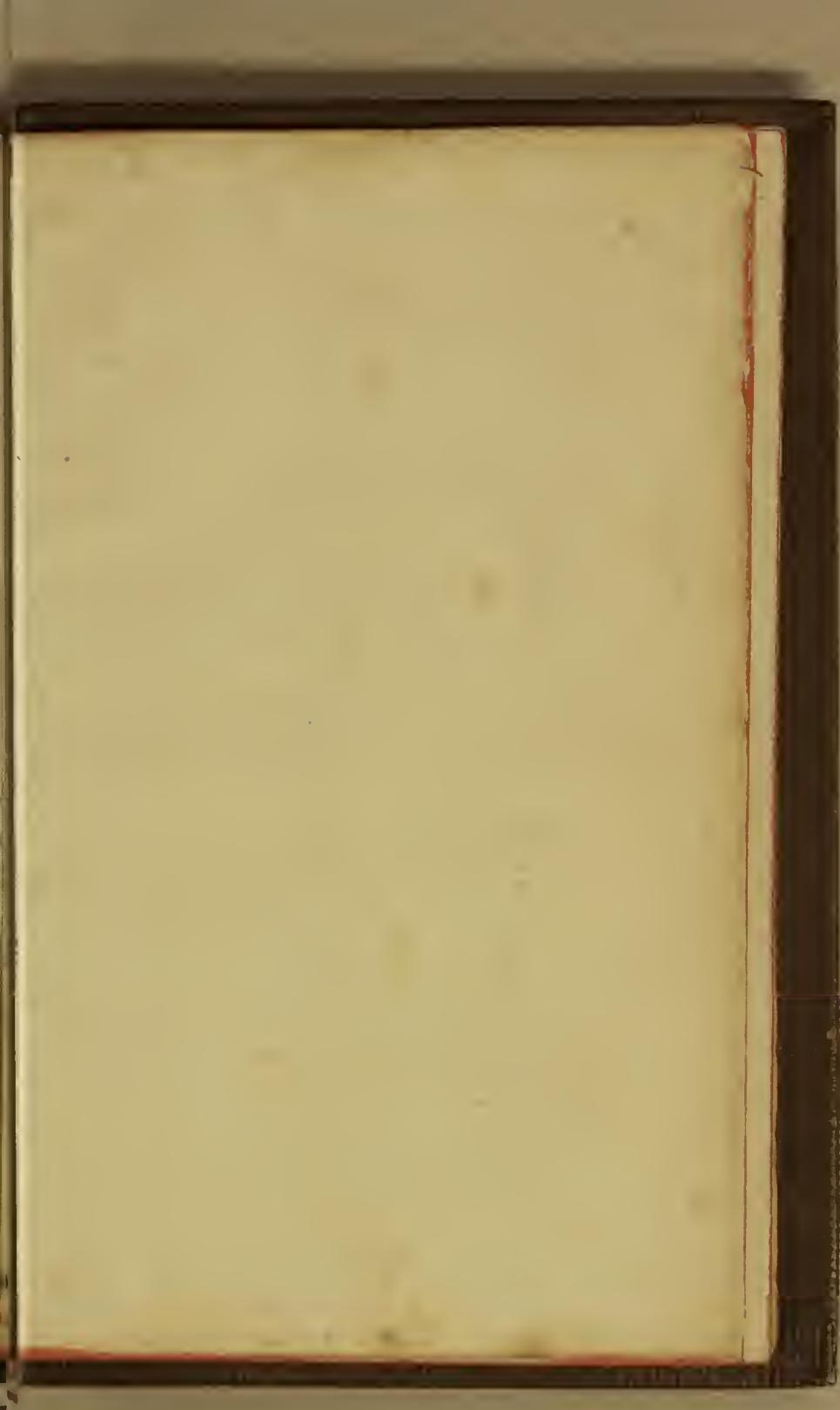
There, with long Bloody Hair, a Blazing Star
 Threatens the World with Famin, Plague & War;
 To Princes death; to Kingdomes many crosses;
 To all Estates, inevitable losses:
 To Herdsman Rot; to Plow-men hapless Seasons;
 To Sailors, Storms: to Cities civil Treasons,

Soli Deo Gloria.

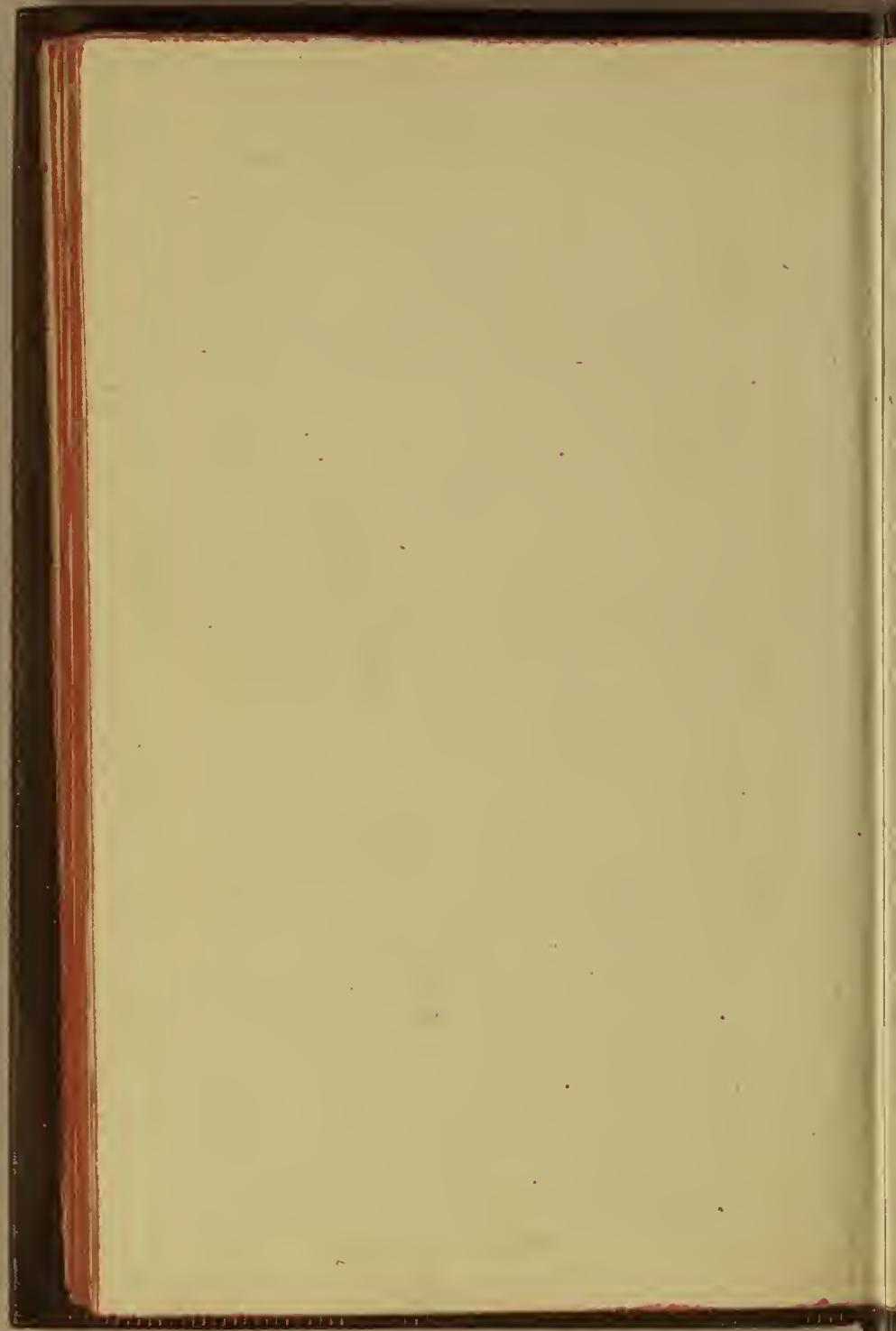
ERRATA:

P.4.L. ult. r. Element. p.19.l.16. *Her Gagnash.* p.43
 l.11. for the r. this. p.56.l.5. r. Martell. P.69.l.19. for
 their, r. the. P. 94.l.23. for whatsoever r. whosoever.
 p.101.l.13. for seconded, r. succeeded. p. 102. l. 23. r.
 19 in 12. sec. P.108.l. 17. should be read thus, 23. Gr.
 41 min. The second Comet this year appeared Novemb[er]
the tenth, confinquing, &c,





06/15



D. Math
I 67A

